

A Brief
NARRATION
Tottenham
OF THE
LIFE,

Service, and Sufferings,
OF THAT
Faithful Servant of Jesus Christ,
JOHN PETERS;

Who Departed this Life, in the 63^d
Year of his Age; on the 11th Day
of the 7th Month, 1708. And
was Buried in Friends Burying-
Place, at *Minver*, in the County
of *Cornwall*, the 13th of the same.

Together with the Testimonies of
His Relations, and other Faithful Friends,
Concerning his Christian Example in the
Church of Christ.

London: Printed and Sold by J. Sowle, in
White-Hart-Court in *Gracious-Street*, 1709.

THE

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A Brief NARRATION,

Of the Life and Death of our Dear and Worthily Esteemed Friend John Peters, late of the Parish of Minver, in the County of Cornwall, a Faithful and Diligent Minister of the Gospel of God, and our Lord Jesus Christ; who finished his Course with Joy, on the 11th Day of the 7th Month, 1708. and is return'd to his Rest in the Lord.

JOHAN PETERS was the First Born and Eldest Son of Charles Peters, of the Parish of Minver abovesaid, and of Phillippa his Wife; being Born in the Year of our Lord, 1645. His Parents were

Persons of good Esteem and Condition as to the World; Sober and Religious, especially his Mother; and under them, he had the Advantage of a good Education, and grew up in Sobriety. His Mother was early convinced of the Truth, as professed amongst the People called *Quakers*; and although his Father did not Associate with them, yet he was very Friendly and Favourable to them, and continued so to his Death.

This our Friend, tho' he did not at first join in Religious Society with us, yet was one, who from his tender Years had the fear of Almighty God before his eyes, and was kept from those Sins and Transgressions which many inconsiderate and unwary young Persons run into: And about the 25th year of his Age he Married a Vertuous Maiden, who continued his Wife and true Help-meet about 38 years, even to the time of their Separation by his Death. Soon after his Marriage,

Marriage, strong Convictions fell on him, which appeared, in that he could not freely comply with Sprinkling his Children, and pretending thereby to make them Christians; as also in Purification of his Wife after Child-Birth, as they term it; which looking upon as a Judaical Rite, he could not away with, so joined himself to the People called *Quakers*, in the Year 1672. and in some short time after, the Lord was pleased to give him a Gift in the Ministry. Which, though not large at first, was very wellcome to the Church; coming from a prepared Vessel, and one who spoke not at random, but with the Spirit and Understanding. This Gift grew and increased mightily in him, especially after the decease of our Friend *Richard Samble* of *Falmouth*, a Laborious and Faithful Minister, who died in the 3d Month, 1680. and to whom he was very dear. This our Friend, had then a Larger Portion of the Gift

of the Ministry poured out upon him, so that he Travelled much, Visiting Friends, not only in this County, but went frequently into other, the South and Western Counties of *England*, and some parts of *Wales*; taking sometimes his Wife with him, who has also a Gift in the Ministry, and was a Fellow-Helper to him in the Gospel in his latter days. He was well known, and well received by the Faithful at *London*, *Bristol*, and in all Places where the Hand of the Lord led him, being endued with the Spirit, and Anointing, whereby he Preached glad Tidings to the Meek, comforted the Mourners, and proclaimed the acceptable year of the Lord, and many were, and are the Seals of his Ministry.

He was very Faithful in his Testimony; it being given him, not only to Believe, but also to Suffer for the Truth. His first Imprisonment was at *Bodmin*, in the Sheriff's Ward, for his Testimony against Paying

Paying Tythes, as being abrogated by the Sufferings of Christ on the Cross. After which, he underwent also some Years Imprisonment at *Lanceston*, for refusing to Swear, in obedience to Christ's Command; and though in those days his Wife was young, and had a growing Family, and his Circumstances as to the World not very abundant; yet he went cheerfully through all, for the Lords sake, and his Truths sake, and Laboured with his hands to supply the Necessities of his Family. During the time of this latter Imprisonment, a certain Great Person, a Baronet, whom he had faithfully Served in managing some part of his Estate, and who had a particular kindness for him, offered to get him his Liberty; but thought it could not be obtained, unless he would engage to Transport himself and his Family to *America*. He acknowledged the Baronet's Kindness, but said, *He doubted not but he should live to see*

Liberty restored, and to eat his Bread quietly in England; which Blessing he accordingly enjoyed for more than twenty Years before he died.

When he had obtain'd his Freedom from the Jayl at *Lanceston*, which might be by King *James's* Declaration, he returned into the Service of Sir *John Carew* the Baronet, afterwards, whom he again faithfully Served, until Sir *John* died. He then managed the same Estate for the Lady Dowager, during her Life, it being part of her Dowry. After her Decease, he managed the same for the Heir that then was, to the great Satisfaction of the sundry Persons and Trustees concerned, and continued to Serve the succeeding Heir, 'till about Six Months before he died; though to my knowledge, our Friend for some Years before grew weary of the Employ, and thought it too great an Incumbrance to him in his growing Years; only his Engagements

gamements were such to the Family, and the Kindness of the Baronet and his Lady towards him, that he knew not how to leave their Service.

Yet he was careful beyond all others to serve the Lord, and accordingly Travelled much in the Ministry, leaving in those days his diligent Wife and Father to oversee his Master's Business in his Absence, until such time as his Son grew up very capable, and well qualified for those Purposes. Then his Wife obtain'd more Liberty; sometimes Visiting the Churches with him in the same Labour of Love. Thus he spent his time in the discharge of his Duty, in Faithfulness to God and Man, performing many great and considerable Trusts reposed in him with great punctuality and exactness, composing of differences, making peace, and advising all to Love and good Works; in which Labours he was always far from seeking himself,

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self, but sought God's Honour, and the good of the Church.

He was blessed with a good degree of Health, save at sometimes, had violent Fits of the Stone ; and that after the Gout seiz'd him, (which might be ten years before he died,) was not so fore on him as before ; neither was his Gout so afflicting as some have found it, being scarcely confined at any time, more than two Weeks at once, and that it may be but once in the Year ; that it little hindred his Travel and Exercise for the Churches good.

He had on the left side of his face a Wen, which he was advised to get cut off, but growing Elderly he would not attempt it ; this grew much about a year or two before he died, for it was scarcely perceivable at first. And being seiz'd by the Gout in his feet this Spring, it's supposed that Distemper flew up to this Distempered Part ; for the Pain leaving his Feet, settled in this Wen, and as he told me, was
of

of the same kind of Pain as he had frequently with the Gout. This made it grow to a prodigious heighth, until it broke, and was thought by some Skillful Persons to be a Cancer; but both Wen and Flesh about it falling off, the Swelling decreased, and the Bone being bare, was thought not affected, and he was thereon judged to mend; and both his Chyrurgeon, and those about him, had hopes of his Recovery. When immediately the Humour flying up again, his Face swell'd a second time, and then he sensibly weakened day by day, and saw his approaching End, and longed to be with the Lord. His Pains also became moderate, and he blessed God frequently for the ease he enjoyed; and though some days before he died, his Speech and Expressions were with some difficulty, yet he retain'd a perfect Understanding and Memory, and Knowledge to the last.

While

While he was yet able to speak, many were the good Exhortations and Counsels he bestowed on those that Visited him; the substance of some of them I took whilst I was with him, viz. on the 20th day of the 5th Month, there being many Friends and Relations in his Chamber, not knowing but he might be near expiring, yet he got himself raised in his Bed, and spake.

‘ It is the Lord’s great Mercy
 ‘ who in the midst of the pains and
 ‘ anguish that attend our Bodies,
 ‘ gives us resignation of Mind to
 ‘ his Divine Will. This he said
 ‘ might be soon spoken of, but it
 ‘ was sweet to come to the living
 ‘ experience of it, and that God had
 ‘ mercifully given him this Resig-
 ‘ nation and quietness of Mind, in
 ‘ which he had Peace, notwith-
 ‘ standing the Weakness and Pains
 ‘ he lay under.

‘ Then observing some young
 ‘ People about his Bed, he Counsel-
 ‘ led them to keep Low in the
 ‘ fear

' fear of the Lord; not to seek to
 ' themselves great things, nor to
 ' Post after the Riches of this World;
 ' that a moderate Care within the
 ' bounds of Truth was allowable;
 ' but he spoke against extending
 ' our desires that way, to the for-
 ' getting the work of Religion, and
 ' the preparation for our latter
 ' end. He told us, a little with
 ' God's Blessing would suffice, and
 ' sweetly enlarged on the benefit of
 ' his Blessing, and the difference
 ' betwixt those, and where he Cur-
 ' seth. He further said, That in
 ' his young years he had a Belief
 ' risen in him, that if he lived in
 ' the fear of God, neither he nor
 ' his should ever want; which had
 ' been all along confirmed to him.
 ' He testified that his heart was full
 ' of the Love of God, and that the
 ' sting of Death was taken away;
 ' and said, 'twould be indeed sad
 ' at such a season of a Languishing
 ' Body, to have a Load of Sin on
 ' the Soul, &c.

Many

Many other Seasonable Counsels he then had, which were very Instructive to us, that made me glad to be there, as I accordingly expressed; and it was to our mutual rejoycing, and a comfort to behold his triumphing over those violent Illnesses his Body lay under. He was thankful to God for his Mercy, in giving him ease from his Pains in some degree, and to see so many of his Relations and Friends about his Bed; so that Death was not bitter to him. But that Divine Life that accompanied him in his Living Testimonies, for the Truth of which, he was a faithful Minister, abode with him, and dwelt on him, and did exert it self with vigour in this his low Condition. It was a Season of brokenness of Heart, and contrition of Spirit, before the Lord; our Friend *George Knipe* Prayed and Praised God, in the openings of Life, for his mercy towards him, and us.

On

On the 23^d of the same Month I was again with him, and fundry others, we then thinking his continuance could be but a little while; when he again spake to us.

‘That we had Cause to be thankful to God for making known to us his Truth; and that he was evidently satisfied, that the way the Lord hath brought us into, is the way of Truth. He spake of the necessity of living in obedience thereto, that it might be a Cross to our Wills, a Bridle to our Tongues, and a Stay to our Minds; with other close Advices relating to walking in the Truth. And perceiving some of us there who had a gift of the Ministry, and Publick Service, sometimes in Meetings; He advised us to wait for Wisdom and Direction from the Lord, to enable us for such Services; saying, that the strength of Man’s parts was not sufficient to do the Lord’s work, &c. And further Counsell’d us, that Love might be the Principal

‘ pal Motive in all our Publick
 ‘ Concerns; to Rebuke, to Exhort,
 ‘ and to Counsel in Love; and if
 ‘ in those Labours, we meet with
 ‘ cross and peevish-spirited People,
 ‘ that we may be careful not to
 ‘ suffer the same Spirit to sway us,
 ‘ but to overcome the Evil with
 ‘ Good. He then told us, that he
 ‘ had nothing in appearance, but
 ‘ Death before him, but was well
 ‘ satisfied however the Lord dealt
 ‘ with him.

These were Heart-opening Sea-
 sons, and we had great comfort and
 refreshment with him. Many o-
 ther were his sweet Sayings and
 Exhortations, which were not ex-
 actly taken, but occasionally de-
 liver’d, as Friends visited him, and
 were of the same nature with those
 frequent Testimonies and Instru-
 ctions that in the course of his Life
 he was made to declare, where-ever
 the Lord led him. He was wholly
 given up to God, to wait upon
 him, who made him sweetly con-
 tented

tented, and resigned to his Divine Will.

Three days before he died, I Visited him again, and continued with him at times 'till the day he departed; and found him in the same sweetness of Love, and freshness of Life; we had sundry heart-tendering Seasons with him. *He told us he was sound and well, meaning as to his mind, and through the Lord's mercy had abundance of ease.* He always signified the great Love of God to him; in which, he finished his Course, and is returned to his everlasting Rest.

He was a Man of a sweet, affable Temper, of a sound Understanding, not disturbed with over-busie Imaginations, the unhappiness of some, but was truly Religious without affectation; sincere and free without harshness, just and temperate in all things, and past over a Life of Innocency and Integrity, and of an Exemplary Piety, yet without any conceit of himself. He was a
worthy

worthy Pattern of Meekness, in which, he exceeded many, never seeking Eminency or Prelation, but was willing to be a Servant to all; by which means, although he never sought after it, he obtain'd an eminent esteem amongst the People of God; and as he was acceptable to those he conversed with, he enjoyed also great tranquility in himself, not suffering any of the violences and transports of Ambitious Spirits. True Honour and good Reputation followed him, because he made it his business to be good, rather than to seem so. He was endued with that Charity, and little Opinion of himself, that he was ready to prefer those who came much short of him in Gifts and Graces.

He was a very good Child, an excellent Father, and Husband, a faithful and diligent Servant, a tender and just Master, a courteous and obliging Neighbour; and what crowned the rest, a living experienced

enced Minister of the New-Testament; not of the Letter, but of the Spirit. And as he received this Gift freely, so he preached it freely; travelling much Abroad to his great expence, in which he was generous, according to his Ability; not desiring to make the Gospel chargeable; and he managed his Affairs with that prudence, that he was always able, as well as willing to give, rather than to receive. I have particularly observed, that in Cases of Charitable Contributions, he was generally on the giving side; and not more forward to press on others, than to contribute himself; and yet the Lord blessed him, and as it was said of the Miracle of Christ's feeding the Multitude, the fragments that remain'd, were more than at the beginning; so was it with the Estate and outward Substance of this our Friend.

He did not only shew mercy with cheerfulness, but he also ruled with diligence, Labouring faithfully

fully in the Lord's Vineyard, both in Doctrine and Discipline; yet took great care, if possible to give offence to none, so as to drive them farther from the Truth. He was of the mind of the Husband-man in the Parable, who would not presently have the fruitless Tree cut down, but would dig about it, and try one year longer; and when some were concerned that there might be a reformation of the Vanities and Fooleries of Apparel and Furniture, &c. creeping in amongst some loose Professors; he shewed what need there was to go through those things, but with a Spirit of Meekness, and to keep out of heats and anger; and particularly advised, that in our Services to the Church, we should carefully retain a peaceable Spirit. He saw there was need of a careful inspection, but would not have it become an occasion of strife and debate, and feuds and animosities: in which, the Man's part has usually the greatest share.

Yet

Yet he was very zealous against all Enormities, and was a severe Judge against all filthiness of Flesh and Spirit, and all undue and undecent Liberties; Labouring, if possible, to reclaim such as wandered thereinto, and if not, to testify against them, that the profession of the Truth, and of the Name of the Lord, might be cleared, and their Wickedness might lie on their own Heads. And he was in all cases a very good Example himself in his Eating, and Drinking, Buying, and Selling, Clothing, and Furniture, and generally in all his Undertakings; that his words and rebukes came with weight on the heads of Transgressors; the Lord clothing him with Authority for his Service.

Yet to the weak, he became as weak: How ready was he at all times to lend an Hand to the Helpless? How could he bear their Burthens? stoop to their Infirmities, comfort the Mourners, and support the

the feeble-minded ; in all things approving himself a Minister of Christ, in much patience labouring to relieve those under Temptations, and was made of very good Service in the Lord's hand, who blessed his Labours ; so that many are living Witnesses of the fervency of his Love, his tenderness of Spirit, his condescension to their weak Estate, and his being Instrumental to their Spiritual Help and Benefit.

Mine Acquaintance with him, was of above thirty years standing ; in which time, having had frequently the benefit of his Company, both at Home, and Abroad, sometimes in Travels ; I never observed any carriage or deportment in him, but what was savoury, becoming the Gospel. And so far was he from Calumny and Reproach, that I never remember him to have spoken evil of any Man ; but by Example, as well as Precept, to provoke all that conversed with him to Love and to good Works.

Works. He bore admirably and sweetly the sad Providences that attended him, when it pleased the Lord to take away his tender Children; not only those that died young, but those also who were grown up, and were very sober and hopeful. He was well instructed in the Moral Precepts of bearing, and forbearing, and yet was tender and condescending to the infirmities of others, who were not so able to bear as himself. He had a well-ordered Family, which he govern'd with discretion, bringing up his young ones in the fear of the Lord, though but one, and that a good Son, survived him; who, it's hoped, will tread in his Father's steps.

But amongst the Golden Chain of Vertues wherewith the Lord had adorned him, his Humility, Lowliness, and Peaceable Temper were very eminent; which made him shine as a Star, and shewed forth that Heavenly Wisdom wherewith he was greatly endued, being gentle,

tle, and easie to be intreated; and by a pure and good Conversation, did manifest his Knowledge with meekness of Wisdom; being a great Stranger to bitter envyings and strife in the heart, the usual effects of Pride and Ambition, never promoting Disputes or Controversies; but following those things that made for Peace, both in the Church, and in the World; and hath now obtain'd the Blessing of the perfect and upright, whose End is peace.

His Ministry was sound and I.i-ving, tending more to the reaching of the heart, than the tickling of the ear; rarely meddling with controverted and disputable Points; but he generally Preached up that Grace of God which teaches Justice, Sobriety, and especially Godliness, which all must agree is the way to the Kingdom of Heaven. These things he was zealously concerned for, more than to advance Sects or Parties; and he Laboured much to draw Peoples Minds from the Love
of

of this World, and the things that are in it, and the Friendships and Fashions of it, and the more, as seeing the influence those things have on the minds of Professors, as well as Profane, whom he would have to come with minds abstracted and withdrawn from the Earth, to love the Lord with all their hearts.

And although his Service was that of the Heart, and he Labour'd not to deck, or to adorn his expression, yet it had a peculiar acceptation with almost all sorts of Hearers, being free from defect, or confusion, and void of all affected Tones and Sounds; not being poured out so hastily, as to out-run Peoples attention; nor so slowly dropping, as to lose one word, before another came; but was well accomplished for that Service, as well in manner as matter of delivery; so that many loved to hear him, who yet did not love to obey, nor to mortifie their Wills, and live in subjection to the Lord's Power.

He affected not Popularity, nor sought to be much followed, but was very ready to give way to his Brethren, who might be concerned with them in the same Service; yea although their Gifts might not equalize his. He never Published any of his Writings in Print, though he wrote sundry Epistles to particular Meetings, and Persons, which might be of Service could they be Collected; in one of which, to his Friends of *Falmouth* Meeting, as well as in some others, he Counselling them against violent hunting after, and heaping up the Riches of this World, and signified that there was Ambition in the bottom of it; the end being to obtain the glory of the World, and greatness and esteem in the Earth; which put People back in the eye of the Lord, and in the accounts of Religion; where the humble come to be most exalted; and this Caution is remembered here, hoping it may be of Service to the Considerate, and

Seriously

Seriously Concerned for that Inheritance which can never be taken away.

And as his Ministry was very intelligible, and attended with plainness, and demonstration, and power, to the piercing of many Hearts, and the tending the Souls of those that heard him; and to the binding up the broken-hearted, and comforting the mourners; so his Conversation and Behaviour answered and came up to it, being full of Gravity and Solidity, never un-preaching in his Behaviour and Carriage, what he deliver'd as Doctrine; no unfavoury Discourse came from him, but what was of benefit to the Hearers; yet did he not make his Company tedious or Burthenfom, being no way rash, or censorious in Judgment; but Cheerful, and Sociable, within the Rules of Sobriety; far from the Humour of those who will not allow unto others, those Liberties they take to themselves; but are readier to cen-

sure Abroad, than at Home. He was sure to keep the most watchful eye upon himself, and took due care not to give offence in any thing, that the Ministry might not be blamed.

I have given but short touches concerning the Life and Labours of this Servant of God; but in fine, his Life was a Life of Diligence, and of Faithfulness, and of much Exercise, which he cheerfully underwent for the Truths sake; and although to some who knew him not, I may seem to have enlarged in his Character, yet is not the one half said, that might be said, in relation to those Excellencies wherewith the Lord by his Spirit had endued him. But the Love of God ruled in his Heart, the Divine Original and Well-spring of Vertues; and in that Love he Lived, Laboured, and passed the time of his Sojourning here; and the sweet sense thereof did greatly adorn his Languishing Bed, and last moments
of

of time, and therein he had sweet peace, under all his afflictions and sore Distemper. In which Love, he finished his Course, and concluded his days, and is fallen asleep in the Lord.

His Body was Interred the 13th day of the 7th Month, 1708. at the Burying-yard of our Friends of *Minver*-Meeting; being attended thither by a numerous Company of Friends, and Relations, and Neighbours; who came not only out of Curiosity, but with a real respect to the Deceased, whose Body being laid in the Earth, we had a Meeting at our Meeting-House in the said Yard, in which, sundry Testimonies were born, in relation to that Light, and Life, and Virtue, wherewith God had beautified our Friend, whilst he abode amongst us, and now shone forth as bright Lamps to adorn his Sepulchre; as also to the necessity of a Life of Holiness and Obedience; *that we also may die the death of the*

*Righteous, and that our latter end
may be like unto his.*

This Relation we thought would
be acceptable to Friends, amongst
whom he sometimes Travelled in
the Work of the Gospel, and to all
that knew him aright; and is as
a Tribute due unto his Memory;
from one who dearly Loved (and
was well Beloved of) him.

A Sincere Friend to all who
Travel *Sion-ward*.

*Falmouth, the 29th of the
7th Month, 1708.*

Tho. Gwin.

The

*The Testimony of the Quar-
terly-meeting of the County
of Cornwall, held at Fal-
mouth, the 12th Day of
the 8th Month, 1708.
Concerning our dear Friend
John Peters, deceased.*

ALthough sundry of our Friends and Brethren may have taken upon them to give some Relation touching our dear Friend, and Elder, and Brother *John Peters* deceased, according to the particular Acquaintance they had with him; yet his Service having been general amongst Friends, especially in this County, does induce us at this our Quarterly Meeting, to give forth the following Testimony concerning him.

He was freely given up to serve God, and his Truth; and being

greatly gifted for that Service, as an Elder, and a Minister, he was in both Cases very diligent and industrious, and as a true Overseer, and a Bishop, according to Primitive Institution: He fed the Flock of Christ, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly, not for filthy Lucre, but of a ready mind; not seeking Honour or Glory to himself, as a Lord over God's Heritage, but ready to serve the least and meanest in the Church, and a good Example to the Flock; who made it his chief Business in the first place, to bring Glory to God, then to make Peace upon Earth, and to increase good will amongst Men.

In these Labours he was exercised as one of the Lord's Worthies; and being no way Opinionated of himself, was Eminent in the esteem of the Faithful, and justly merited the right hand of Fellowship amongst us, because the Light and Life of Jesus shone forth very brightly

Brightly in him. But he's return'd
to his Everlasting Rest; and it's
our Prayer (who follow after him)
that the Lord will yet cloath his
Elders and Ministers with the same
Vertue, and Power, and Salvation,
and that all his Saints may shout
for Joy.

Sign'd in Behalf of the said Meet-
ing,

*John Scantlebury,
Thomas James,
John Sandencock,
John Crocker,
William Bealing,*



*Edward Bealing,
William Treboun,
Samuel Hopwood,
Phillip Debell.*

*The Testimony of divers
Friends belonging to Min-
ver-Meeting, given forth
the 27th of the 8th Month,
1708. Concerning their
dear Friend John Peters,
deceased.*

ALthough we do believe that
sundry Testimonies of this
kind will be Published, setting
forth the faithful Acts of this our
dear Friend and Brother *John Pe-
ters* deceased, (for which Reason
we think proper not to be large)
as also tho' we are sensible that our
Tongues and Pens are not able to
set forth the excellency of that Spi-
rit that ruled in him; yet we of
the same Meeting to which he did
belong, being at this time deeply
affected with our great loss of him,
find our selves concern'd to give in
this

this short Testimony, as follow-
eth.

He was a Man endued with a meek and quiet Spirit, filled with that Wisdom which is from above, pure, peaceable, gentle, easie to be intreated; by which he was made a free Minister of the Gospel, and rightly qualified to speak a word in season, both to the weak and weary, and to the Mourners in *Sion*. To the Young among us, he was as a tender Nursing-Father. The many comfortable Seasons that we enjoyed with him, are fresh in our remembrance; wherein we could say with that Kingly Prophet *David*: *How good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in Unity?* and we desire that the living Sense thereof may not pass from us, but that it may engage us to follow the foot-steps of this our dear Friend that is gone before us; whose delight was, *to see Brethren dwell together in unity*. But if the contrary did appear in
any,

any, it was his great grief, and he did Labour in the Spirit of Meekness and Condescension, to reclaim such as were disorderly (not in a hasty forward Zeal) but saying, *if ever we overcome Evil, it must be with good.* He was very tender of the least appearance of good in any; for he was ready to favour the very dust of *Sion*, and to lend a helping hand to the weak. His words were few and savoury: tho' several of us have been more than 20 years acquainted with him, yet cannot remember an unfavoury word to come from him. The time of his Sickness he bore with great Patience, and tho' he desired Death rather than Life, yet was contented to wait the Lord's time; and said to some of us that went to visit him, *He was not afraid to die, the sting of death was taken away, for which he praised the Lord.* Some of his Relations were desirous he should try another Doctor, to which he answer'd; *Be quiet, be still,*

still, if the Lord see meet to lengthen my days, he can soon heal my malady; if otherwise, I am content: farther adding, It's no small comfort to me, that I did not hearken to the persuasions of some who would have me go from one Doctor to another; my confidence is on him, who is the alone Physician of value.

May it please the All-wise Disposer of all things (who by his Divine Providence hath seen meet to remove him from us, into that everlasting Rest prepared for him) to raise up more such *Moses's* like Elders amongst us, and that we that are left behind, may so live in this World, as we had him for an Example, that when days to us here shall be no more, we may also go to our Graves in Peace, is the earnest desire of our Souls.

Sign'd in Behalf of our Meeting
of Minver,

*Degory Hockin,
John Scantlebury, Jun.
William Robbets.*

*Margery Peters Testimony,
in Memorial of her dear
Husband deceased.*

I Have this Testimony in my Heart, for my dear deceased Husband : He was a Man of Integrity towards God and Man, seeking nothing more than the honour of the great God, and Peace amongst his Neighbours, for which he often Travelled, the Lord concerning him to visit his Churches and People; which in much readines, thro' many hard Journeys, he carefully performed; saying, nothing was hard to him, when the Lord made him willing. And when he was returned to his outward Habitation, was much concern'd amongst his Neighbours, in composing differences, he loving Peace, having good will towards Men; and was chosen as a Referree in many Cases,
in

in which he gave great Content; for the Lord had indued him with a Spirit of great condescension to hear both Parties, and Judge impartially. And as to his Service in the Gospel, God gave him that Understanding to divide his Word aright; so as it was many times as Milk to Babes, and strong Meat to them of Riper Age. He was a very tender and affectionate Husband to me, and would say, *What was dearly bought, was highly prized*; for it was several years after his affection was made known to me, before our Marriage was accomplished, our Parents on both sides, being at first averse to it: In which time, we waited in submission, still desiring, if the Lord had not a hand in it, it might never be brought to pass; such was his Resignation to the will of God, and would advise me by Writing (for that was our way of Conversation, not being permitted Personal Conference) to fall down at God's Foot-stool, saying,

Thy

Thy will be done. We were both of us then of the Communion of the Church of *England*, and were Married after that manner, our Parents on both sides giving then their free Consent, to our mutual Joy and Satisfaction. But that which was a super-added Mercy, not long after, the Lord was pleased to bring us to the Knowledge of his Blessed Truth, so as my dear Husband had his Prayers answered, which he made to the Lord, before I became his Wife. It so pleased the Lord, that we were both reached by his Eternal Power in one day, I not being at the Meeting he was, neither had my Husband said any thing to me of what he had heard, or felt of God's Love to his Soul. But before the Evening of that Day, I was touched with great tenderness on my Spirit, insomuch, that I sought a Place where I might prostrate my Soul before the Lord, and oh! his penetrating eye beheld my mournful Tears, and answered my
tender

tender Cry, which was for a Saviour for my Soul. As for my dear Husband, his Exercise was alike with mine; he being at a Meeting of the Lord's People, with intent to take account what might be spoken; was, as he often said, in a little time, drawn into a great stillness of mind. Inſomuch that when the Servant of God *James Adamsen*, to whom he had committed his Word, to declare in that Aſſembly, had ſpoken but few words, he was ſo ſeized with that Divine Power, there was no room to exerciſe his Pen and Ink; he could ſenſibly read legible Characters in his own heart, to which he always had recourſe, for Counſel and Conduct, thro' the whole courſe of his Life, and through that ability given him of the Father of Lights (from whom every good and perfect gift comes) he was made Serviceable to many, but much more to me, his tender Wife; whoſe Travel hath been deep, and
Spirit

Spirit often dejected; but he being indued with an excellent Spirit of Wisdom, Faith, and a sound Mind, could speak a word in Season, both to the Weak and Mourners in *Sion*, to trust in the Lord, in whom was everlasting strength. And surely his words were right ones, for they carried force with them, being fitly spoken, and were *as Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver*, and as Nails fasten'd, he being instructed by the Master of our Assemblies, the Minister of the true Tabernacle which God hath pitched, and not Man, even the Lord Jesus Christ our Rock and sure foundation, on which his Building was. And it stood sure, and was not in the least shaken, but was indued with that excellent Faith, that Christ was, and is the Author of; and his Hope gave him an entrance within the Veil wherein our fore-runner is entred, even Jesus, made an High - Priest for ever; by whom, and through whom he had access to the Father, and full

full assurance of Eternal Salvation; which made him often say to me his Exercised Wife; *Mourn not for me when I am gone, I am waiting for my Change, desiring to be dissolved: Death is not fearful, the sting is taken away.* His Visitation, as to his Distemper, was nigh Six Months, in which time, he was kept in great Patience, not in the least Repining; but would often say, *If the Lord hath any further Work or Service for me to do, he can heal me; if not, I have done with this world.* And much wholesome Advice would give to them that Visited him: He was drawn forth in Prayer, and tender Counsel dropped from him. When some Friends sat by him, his Cup would overflow, and he would empty it amongst us often, crying to the Lord for a *Blessing on his Son*, whom God had left him of ten Children; and would often say to me, *I desired before ever God gave me a Child, they might rather be taken off in*
the

the Innocency of their days, than live to dishonour him. But the parting with my dear Offspring would sorrowfully affect me ; but I considered, it was the mercy of God, in leaving my dear Husband to me, who was more to me than ten Sons, in Counsel, Caution, and Advice. But since it hath so pleased his God, and mine, to remove so near and dear a Companion from me, my Cry and Prayer is, I may prepare to follow him ; and may Conclude as he did, who was kept in resignation of Soul, and full assurance of Eternal Life ; the sense whereof made him to rejoyce. When Death was nigh, he was glad of it, and very sensible of its Approach, and could welcome it, for God had given him Victory over Death, Hell, and the Grave, through the Intercession, Mediation, and Spirit of his Son the Lord Jesus Christ, who was his Foundation, and Hope of Glory, to whom he freely resigned up his Soul in much Peace,
and

and I have a Seal of it; yea, at that very juncture his Spirit left him, my Soul was filled with God's Power, and I was made to cry, *Let me be a Widow indeed, whose trust is in the Lord, blessed be his pure and holy Name, his hand supports, sustains, and bears me up, and I can say, he gives, and takes away, blessed be his Name.* So let that Name be my Dwelling-place withall the Lord's Children; then shall we live here in his fear, and die in his favour, as my dear Husband did, who departed this Life the 11th Day of the 7th Month, 1708. and is entered into that Rest that's Glorious, and lives to Sing Praises to *Sion's King*, and to the Lamb for ever. This I firmly Believe, who am his Mournful Widow,

*Treglines in Minver, the Place
of my Abode, this 3d of the
9th Month, 1708.*

Margery Peters.

William and Hannah Peters Testimony, Concerning their Honoured and Tender Father, John Peters, deceased.

HE was to us an Affectionate and Tender Father, often advising in private, as well as often in publick, for us, and others, to fear the Lord, and be true to what he was pleased to make manifest was his mind and will. He was one that Travelled many long and tedious Journies to serve the Lord and his People; which he did, with much cheerfulness and readines of mind, through (sometimes) much difficulty, being stormy, wet and cold weather, before Day, and after Night. Our dear Father was one that was always willing to spend, and be spent for the honour of God, and
the

the good of Mankind, as well inwardly, as pretty often outwardly; being chosen by many, as a Guardian over them they left behind, which he faithfully discharged, and finished the same, not many Months before his Departure; which he would say, he counted a great favour from the Lord; who had so order'd his Concerns in this World, that he had little or nothing to do but die, and be with him; which he had a full assurance of, and would often declare the same to his dear Relations, Friends and Neighbours, who were not a few that Visited him, in the time of his Illness and sore affliction, which he bore with wonderful Patience near six Months, often blessing and praising the Lord in the midst of his great Exercise; being drawn forth in Prayer, by the Power of the Living God, for a Blessing on us his tender Offspring; and advising those that Visited him, to be true to God, and obedient to what

what they knew was his mind and will; saying, It was not the Name of a *Quaker*, or any other, that would stand in stead in the Day of Account. Therefore would earnestly beg of them with tears, when very weak, and as much as he could speak, as well as at many other times, to be obedient; saying, 'How miserable had it been with him, if he had not been so; which now on the contrary (said he) I am truly Happy; being fully assured of a resting place with the Lord; unto which place, I desire you may all come. Many more good and comfortable Sayings we had from him, which our Pen is too short, and our Tongues not able to declare. What shall we say, our Loss is very great, in particular, as is and will be to the Church in general. The Lord raise up more such Pillars to support the same; he being (we think we may say) one that was truly very Serviceable and Substantial in that House;

House; and now doubt not, but is reaping the Fruits thereof; being entred into Everlasting Rest, Peace, and Eternal Glory, with the Father, and the rest of his faithful Brethren.

He departed this Life the 11th of the 7th Month, 1708. about Four in the Afternoon, being the Sixty Third Year of his Age, with a Pleasant Countenance, without Sigh or Groan, but very quiet. This being a few Lines we are willing should be put in among the rest that may be Concerned, to give their Testimony concerning our dear deceased Father; who are his Sorrowful Children,

*William
and
Hannah* } *Peters.*

C

Note,

✂ *Note, Our Little Son John Peters* (Aged about 5 Years and a $\frac{1}{2}$.) Remembers that his Grandfather said, when many Friends were about him : ‘ He was greatly comforted with their Company, notwithstanding his Outward Man grew Weaker, and Weaker, his Inward Man grew Stronger, and Stronger ; being born up and preserved by the same Lord that was with *Daniel* in the Den, and with the three Children, *Shadrach, Meshach* and *Abed-nego*, in the Fiery Furnace.

Something

*Something by way of Testi-
mony Concerning my dear
and honoured Father-in-
Law, John Peters.*

SEeing it hath pleased the Lord to remove my dear and honoured Father; I find something to rest in my heart to say of him, he being a near Father, and a worthy Member in the Church of Christ, whose Service was great, being always of a willing and ready mind to serve the Lord and his People: And the Lord was pleased to make him a worthy Instrument in his hand, for the Benefit of many, who can speak largely of the same, and set too their Seals he was a worthy Instrument for their Conversion; and stand to this Day faithful to bless the Lord, that ever they knew him, and heard his mouth open to declare of the things of God; which

he did largely and freely, in many parts of this Nation, where he found the Lord to draw him, although not in the very beginning of the day, but so early, as to bear a part of Suffering with the People of God by Imprisonment, many Revilings, and Mockings, which he patiently bore, and suffered willingly the spoiling of his Goods, as a Testimony against all Opposers, that sought the ruining of him, and many more. And I have heard him say, when he hath been before his Adversaries, who would threaten him with Confinement, and utter Ruine here, *It hath risen in his heart he should see Liberty, when he might be in Bonds.* Which the Lord gave him a sight of long before his death; which gave him cause to say, *Those that have risen up against him, have fallen before him, and come to nothing.* Yet I never saw him rejoyce at it, but rather troubled, and always shew'd a great Love and Readiness to serve his

his very Enemies, according to what God had blessed him with. Being a Man of a ready Mind, to do all the good he could in his day; so that he spared not his Body, nor outward Substance, to serve Truth, Friends, and his Neighbours. And the Lord having endowed him with a good understanding, by which he labour'd much to preserve Love and Unity amongst Brethren. For he would often say, if any difference hapned, *Take care of destroying Charity, let that abound amongst us.* It was his great Joy to see Truth prosper, and Brethren to dwell together in unity; for which, he laboured much, and spared not to speak a word in season, which was to some, as precious Ointment poured forth, much reviving their Spirits, and encouraging them to keep on in the way of God, that they might not miss the Reward of Eternal Life; which he Laboured much to keep Friends in the remembrance of, that so they

might not miss at last. This I speak, having had a frequent Conversation with him, both Abroad, and at Home, in the Service of Truth, since I came to be so near Related as a Son-in-Law, by Marrying his only Daughter; whom the Lord saw good to remove from me, in a few years, to all our great sorrow. So that in many States I have been acquainted with him, when Trials have come outwardly; as the loss of his dear Parents, and several hopeful Children, which were grown up, likely in the World to stand for Truth after he might be removed. At such trying Times, he seemed to be a Man of great Resignation; and contented under the dealings of the Lord, and in every State seemed to be resigned to the Lord's will in all things, without complaining, or a dissatisfied Countenance. Surely he was of a compleat Temper, slow to Anger, ready to pass by Faults in any, and to love the very worst of his Enemies.

mies. Free in visiting the Sick, helping the Poor, as well them which were not Friends and Relations, as they which are. What shall I say of him, he was surely a good Pattern for us that knew him to walk by, for he was a Man of a meek and quiet Spirit, which gained a Love in the hearts of most that knew him, of all Persuasions; so that I never heard a mouth open to speak hardly of him, altho' he hath been variously concerned in the World, and amongst Men of different Persuasions. More of this may be written by another Hand in what follows; I wish it may have a good effect on the hearts of those that may Read the same; which is the real Design of Publishing this; that we all may walk as we have good Men for Examples, as this my honoured Father was; who, altho' he is dead, he lives in the hearts of some, not easily to be forgotten. For I have good cause to believe he hath fought the good

fight of Faith, and finished his course in peace with the Lord, and is at Rest with the faithful, that lives for evermore. For I heard him say before his Departure, being sensible it drew nigh, *He had peace with the Lord, and would not return into the World again, if he could possess the whole; for it was as nothing, in comparison of that great Peace he was enjoyer of.* And at another time he said, *He had discharged himself faithfully to God and man, to the best of his understanding; and neither wittingly or willingly done any thing that was unjust.* For his Care was to keep his Conscience clear in all things, which was his great peace. My now Wife having been abroad a great part of his Illness, made what hast she could to see him, which she obtained, a few days before his Departure. He said, *I am glad to see thee,* and expressed his great peace with the Lord; Blessed her and me, with our Children, saying, *We might live many years in the World;*

World; be faithful to God, and true to him in all things; saying (as well as we could understand him) he had much in his heart, but could not utter it, being low; yet, said he, I am going apace; and he had a desire to be dissolved, that he might come to the enjoyment of what he had long labour'd for, to be at rest with the Lord. But considering the loss we were like to sustain, by parting with so affectionate a Father as he ever was to us, so true a Friend, and faithful Elder, we could not but drop tears of Sorrow, altho' we are satisfied it was his everlasting Gain. And there is not doubt at all, but that he is at rest, with the just men made perfect, who die in the Lord, and their works follow them.

Thus died my honoured Father, in the 63d Year of his Age; and his Body was Accompanied with many of his Friends and others to the Grave, where several Testimonies were born to the Truth he Laboured and died in, to the satisfaction of many.

*Liskard, the 28th of the
8th Month, 1708.*

C 5

John Croker.

*A Testimony Concerning that
Faithful Servant and Mi-
nister of Christ Jesus, my
dear deceased Friend and
Kinsman, John Peters.*

THE Benefits which the Church of God hath and still doth enjoy, by and through the powerful effectual Ministry of such whom he hath called to that Honourable Work, in this latter Age and Dispensation of the Gospel to the Children of Men, hath been many and large ; being set among the Catalogue of those Gifts our Saviour has graciously been pleased to vouchsafe them after his Ascension, for the perfecting of the Saints, &c. And where the Lot of such have been cast, the advantage that hath redounded to the Brethren amongst whom they have resided, has been unvaluable.

unvaluable. On the contrary, when the Lord hath been pleased to visit such, and to remove them from us, by taking them unto himself; how hard hath it been to part with such useful Members (though we dare not say to the Lord, what doest thou) as knowing that our Loss is their Eternal Gain; *It's the Lord, let him do what seemeth good in his sight.*

Amongst the truly gifted, and rightly called to the work of the Ministry in this Western part of the Nation, that hath been taken from amongst us, since God in his mercy made known his way of Truth unto me, and called me by his grace to the publick profession of the same; none (that I remember) hath so nearly affected the Church in general (in this County) as the departure of that Eminent Servant of the Lord, and Minister of Christ Jesus, dear *John Peters*, for whom I am to bear the following Testimony.

The

The Saints sorrowed for the loss of *Paul*, chiefly for those words, (*That they should see his face no more*) and it has not a little bowed my Spirit to think of parting with such a chosen useful Vessel in the Lord's hand, and how Serviceable he was in the Church in this County, is well known to most Friends now living in it. Nor was he confined to this County only, but sundry other Counties he frequently visited, in which, his Labours were acceptable, successfull and constant; spending most of his time in the Service of Truth, and Friends, it being his meat and drink to do the will of his Lord and Master that had called him; always living in the practice of what he perswaded others to, in which he was Exemplary. Not in Word and Doctrine only, but in Life and Conversation also; by which he obtained a good Report from Friends, and others; it being one of the Characters by which a
 Gospel

Gospel Minister is denominated ; and was no more than what he justly merited from his greatest Adversaries.

Nor was he forgetful to entertain Strangers, but as his heart, so was his doors always open to receive such as wanted his assistance. Neither did the Stranger Lodge in the Street, for want of a free reception : His Charity was universal, but more especially to the household of Faith. And as the Lord had bless'd him with a competency of the things of this Life, he as freely distributed to the necessities of the Indigent, with all cheerfulness, well knowing the mind of his Lord and Master, *who loves a cheerful giver* ; and therefore would not say, *be you warmed, and clothed*, without administering wherewith to do it. Which was always attended with such wholsom Council and Advice, given in that love and tenderness, as imprinted a gratitude on the minds, and perpetuated

ted his remembrance on the hearts of such, to whom he had been many ways as a Father. Thus was he constant in affirming good works, knowing that those things are good and acceptable. Nor would he pass by or overlook the meanest Friend that kept his Station in the Truth; but at proper seasons giving them Personal Visits, lending his hand of help to such as needed it; which being performed in true Love, seldom missed of the desired effect.

But above all things, how careful was he to keep up good Discipline in the Church, as much as possible, to preserve unity among Brethren, in the bond of Peace: His Counsel and Advice was of weight and Authority, being well beloved, and much respected by Friends as an Elder, Ruling well, so was worthy of double Honour, which he no way desired, but sought the things that were of God, and not his own. His Meekness and Humility may not be forgotten,

ten, for he used all persuasive means, without Lording it over the Heritage of God, but in all lowliness and Brotherly affection, would woe and intreat to be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ our Lord, that so they might receive remission of Sins, and an Inheritance amongst his Sanctified ones. • But O! how tender was he over the Seed and Birth of Life, where he saw the least Bloomings of it in any, how would he cherish and strengthen it, by his tender Counsels, Fatherly Admonitions, and Holy Instructions to bring it to maturity; that so, if possible, nothing might be lost, but that the feeble knees might be confirmed, and those hands lifted up, that were ready to hang down; leading gently such as were infirm, and helping onward the hindermost; and where the Seed lay oppressed, how careful was he to remove the Cause to the utmost of his Ability. Nor was he forgetful of such as suffered for the Cause of God,

God, and his Truth; but as one with them, became sharer in their afflictions, as bound with such as were in Bonds.

And such was the Constancy of his Love to me in particular, that from the first time I knew him, which was soon after the Lord began to work upon my Spirit, in whose hand he was made a blessed Instrument towards my Convincement and Settlement in the blessed Truth, that he had always a Fatherly concern for my preservation; and to that end, since the time of my Confinement in this Place, I had frequent loving visits from him, and sundry good Meetings with him amongst the Prisoners, whilst the Lord afforded him strength, as well as divers comfortable Letters, to my great satisfaction, and consolation; which he well knew (and I aver) were always most grateful and acceptable to me; having such a savour of Life in them, as was truly refreshing and edifying.

fying. The last Opportunity I had
 with him, was some time after his
 Distemper had been upon him, by
 which he had for some time in ef-
 fect been confined; which seeming
 to abate, he could not forget his
 usual Labour of Love; but was
 willing to work in his Master's
 Vineyard whilst his day lasted.
 And having a concern to visit
 Friends at their Quarterly Meet-
 ing, he, in company with his dear
 Wife, and divers other Friends,
 gave me and my Fellow-Prisoner a
 Visit, which proved the last; the
 which, with many other such ones,
 will not be soon forgotten by me.
 He Prayed with us with much zeal
 and fervency; in which he very
 livingly made use of them words of
 the Prophet *Isaiah*; *In all their af-*
flitions he was afflicted, and the An-
gel of his presence accompanied them,
 having a sense upon his Spirit that
 the Lord would bring his People
 through, and deliver them out of
 all their afflictions in his own time;
 and

and in much Love and tenderness we parted, as those taking their last farewell of each other, after we had been well refreshed together in the Lord.

Soon after, his Distemper increasing, by which he was more straitly confined; during which time, many were the wholsom Expressions, and Christian Admonitions that dropt from him, to many Friends that visited him; exhorting all to keep Low in Truth; often declaring how well it would be with him, and how much he was resigned to the will of the Lord, and what great cause he had to bless his holy Name for his goodness extended to him, in making known his mind and will to him, and calling him by his Grace to bear Testimony to his Truth, (which he faithfully did, when in Prison, as well as when at Liberty.) But by reason of my close Confinement, I could not pay him those Personal Visits I might, had I been at Liberty; and
had

had this Relation, with much more, from the mouths of sundry Friends that visited him. A more particular Account I hope may be given by some other careful Hand, in order to preserve his precious memory to succeeding Ages. And as he lived, so he died, a Pattern of Holiness, and an Example to us that survive him; his last breathings being Hymns and Praises to God. Thus he was sweet in his Life, and in his Death not divided. In this state he lived, and in this holy frame he laid down his mortal Tabernacle; and is doubtless entred into that Rest, prepared for the People of God.

May it please the Almighty Lord to stir upon the Spirits of others, and to fill up the Places of such, whom he hath been pleased in mercy to take to himself; is what is desired, and prayed for, by a Lover of the Truth, as it is in Jesus, and a Sufferer for the same.

The Sheriffs Ward in Bodmin,
the 18th Day of the 9th
Month, 1708. *Rich. Hickins jun.*

*Tobitha Fox's Testimony,
Concerning her dear de-
ceased Friend, and Unkle
(by Marriage) John Pe-
ters.*

PRECIous to the Lord are the death of his Saints, who in their Life time were given up to do his Will, and answer his Requirings, and their Labour of Love is worthy to be commended to future Generations, who by their faithfulness obtained a good Report; among whom, this my dear Unkle was one. He was endowed with a good Understanding in Divine things, an Able Minister of Christ Jesus, well qualified for the Work to which he was called. I, with many more, have been greatly comforted under his Testimony; he was a Succourer of the Weak, whose

whose hearts were honestly inclined, his natural Temper very condescending and bearing; he Suffered faithfully in his day and time for the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. About three Months before his Death, he gave me and my fellow Prisoner a Visit, which was very comfortable to us; at which time he was concerned in Prayer with us, and was very fresh and living, his Distemper being then upon him, whereof he died.

The time he lived, under affliction of Body, was in much Patience and Resignation of Spirit, being in full assurance of Peace, desirous to be dissolved; and I question not but his Rest is glorious. It's most certain our Loss in the Church is great here away; but being sensible the Lord is all-sufficient to make it up unto his People; it's in my heart to say, let all the faithful Pray unto the Lord of the Harvest, that it would please him to raise up more such faithful

faithful Labourers, and qualifie
them to Labour in the Vineyard,
for the Harveſt is great, tho' the
faithful well-qualliſied Labourers
but few.

From the Sheriffs Ward in
Bodmin, the 18th of the
9th Month, 1708.

Tobitha Fox.

A

*A Copy of a Letter sent to
Job Weal Priest, and his
Hearers.*

IN Obedience to the Everlasting
God of Heaven and Earth, am
I moved to write to thee, and thy
Hearers, these Lines; and in dear
and tender Love to your Immortal
Souls, do I warn you all to turn
to the Lord by true Repentance;
which is, to forsake Sin, and cleave
unto the Lord, and love him with
all your Heart, Soul, and Strength,
and your Neighbours as your selves;
and to be truly obedient to the
witness of God in your Conscien-
ces; which is that Grace of God
which brings Salvation, as heark-
ned to, believed in, and obeyed;
and it is that grace of God which
hath appeared unto all Men, and
doth teach all that hearken to it,
to deny ungodliness and worldly lust,
and

and to live righteously, soberly and
 godly in this present world, Tit. 2.
 11, 12. And 'tis that Spirit of
 Truth, which leadeth into all
 Truth, if obeyed. Though I say
 'tis possible for Men and Women to
 reject it, and turn from it. Yet I
 say, this is that which reproves in
 secret, when no mortal Eye beholds,
 neither can any thing be hid from
 it, for 'tis that of God which
 searcheth the Heart, and tries the
 Reins, and telleth Man his Thoughts,
 and is the same which Moses bear
 Testimony of, in the 30th of Deu-
 teronomy, saying, *It is not in Hea-
 ven that thou shouldest say, who
 shall fetch it down from thence, nei-
 ther beyond the Sea, but it is nigh,
 even in the heart and in the mouth,
 that thou mayest hear it, and do it.*
 And this is the Anointing which
 God bare Testimony of, saying;
 1 Joh. 2. 27. *Ye need not that any
 man teach you, but as that same a-
 nointing teacheth you, which is truth,
 and is no lye.* And 'tis also that
 more

more sure word of Propheſie which *Peter* ſpoke of, 2 *Pet.* 1. 19. therefore I ſhall deſire all to turn in your minds unto this pure manifeſtation of the Light of Chriſt Jeſus in your hearts, *for what may be known of God, is manifeſt in us,* Rom. 1. 19. I ſay, hearken diligently unto it, hear, and your Souls ſhall live; and ſo you ſhall come to witneſs an entrance into that firſt Eſtate from which Man fell: And this is my Teſtimony for the Lord, that nothing ſhort of true Obedience to what the Lord hath manifeſted in the Hearts and Conſciences of Men and Women, will ever procure true peace to the Soul, for 'tis the willing and obedient, ſhall eat the good of the Land. But ſome may Object and ſay, I am willing, but I want the Power. Ah! Friends, let not this be your excuſe, and ſo continue in Sin, for he hath promiſed, *that all that hunger and thirſt after Righteouſneſs ſhall be filled*; and as you

D

come

come to be obedient, and turn from one Sin, so the Lord will strengthen you, and give you Victory over another, and so Judgment will arise over all Sin, till it be brought into Victory; and so you shall come to witness a growth from one degree of Grace to another, 'till ye come to be perfect in Christ Jesus; tho' both thou, and thy Hearers, in your dark Imaginations, say, *there is no perfection on this side the grave.* But this know assuredly, that the Lord God Almighty, *is of purer eyes than to behold Iniquity, and there is no repentance in the Grave, but as the Tree falls, so it lies.* Ay, but you may Object and say, God looks not upon us, as in our selves, but as we are in Christ Jesus; not knowing or considering, *that he that is in Christ Jesus is a new Creature, old things are done away, behold all things are become new, 2 Cor. 5. 17. and if Christ be in you, the Body is dead because of Sin, and the Spirit*

is alive because of Righteousness.
 Now Friends, this is the thing you must know, feel, and witness, Christ Jesus to be risen in you by his Divine Spirit, to the pulling down of the strong holds of Sin, and the raising of you up to newness of Life. For, my Friends, it is not sufficient for you, to only believe that Christ died to save Sinners, or redeem Sinners, unless you can witness him risen in your hearts by his Divine Spirit, to the saving and redeeming you out of Sin, for he was sent for this very purpose, to save his People from their Sins. And this must all Men come to witness in their own particulars. For now, Friends, that none may be mistaken of me, nor our Principles, this is that we hold and believe, and in our measures are come to witness Redemption and Salvation in and through Christ Jesus, by his Spirit and Power; even of that Christ Jesus, who was Crucified without the Gates of Je-

rusalem ; who was out of the abundant love of God to Man, made a Propitiation, not only for the Sins of Believers, but also for the Sins of the whole World, to obtain forgiveness of Sins, and reconciliation to God. And says the Apostle, *John 13. 2. For this Cause was the Son of God made manifest, that he might destroy the works of the Devil.* 'Twas to abolish Death, and to bring Life and Immortality to Light through the Gospel ; 'twas to Redeem from all Iniquity, and to purifie to himself a Peculiar People zealous of good works.

Therefore both Priest and People awake, and be awakened out of the graves of Sin, and out of all Carnal Security and Peace, and take heed of speaking Peace, when the Lord doth not speak Peace ; for there is no Peace to the wicked, saith the true God, neither shall any ever come to true Communion with God, whilst Iniquity is regarded in the heart. Therefore in
the

the fear and dread of the Lord, do I warn all to seek the Lord while he may be found, and to call upon him while he is near, and none to slight the Day of the Lord's Spiritual Appearance; but all to turn in your minds unto that Light, with which Christ Jesus hath enlightned you, and love it, and obey it; and in so doing, you shall come to be partakers of the New Covenant, wherein ye shall have no need to teach every Man his Brother, and every one his Neighbour, saying, *Know the Lord; but all shall know me, from the least to the greatest, saith the Lord;* and likewise to find the Pearl of great price within, which you have been long seeking without, to no purpose. Therefore now sweep your own Houses, that you may come to find the lost Groat there, which many have found, praises be to the Lord for ever. Therefore I am ingaged to call to my Neighbours to come and rejoyce with me. Oh

my Friends, these are not words spoken at a distance, or because I have read or heard so; but 'tis that I have and do experimentally witness, blessed be the Lord for ever.

Therefore now, both Priest and People, the welfare of whose Souls I dearly and truly desire, turn in I say your minds to this witness of God in your Consciences; and tho' it seem but small or inconsiderable in your esteem, yet be sure to hearken to it, and obey what it commands; for 'tis the same, that is compared to a grain of Mustard-seed, which is the least of all Seeds, yet it grows to such a Tree, that the Birds of the Air lodge in the Branches thereof; therefore prize and esteem it, and be not like the Jews of old, who looked for the coming of the Messiah; yet when he was come, they could not believe it was he, because he came not in that outward Pomp and Glory as they expected, but was Born of the Virgin *Mary*; and
when

when he was Born, there was no Place for him to be laid in but a Stable, in a Manger, for 'tis said, there was no room for him in the Inn. Now, Friends, Read this, I beseech you with understanding: This was as to his visible appearance in that Body which his Father had prepared him to do his Will in ; yet see what cold Entertainment he found among Evil Men, when he was subject to Persecution, and when they sought his death many times, but could not have it, 'till he had done his Father's Will. Now I would have all seriously to consider, whether it be not the same now, as to his Spiritual Appearance? Whether or no the Inn, which is the Heart, be not taken up with other Guests, so as there is no room admitted for Christ and his Divine Spirit to dwell there, which is the only part in which Christ ought to rule and reign. Oh! my Friends, he who searcheth the heart, and trieth the

reins, and telleth man his thoughts, is to be found there within : And I can truly say, as the Woman of *Samaria* said, *Come and see a Man that hath told me all that ever I did.* So I say, this witness of God, which is the Grace of God, that hath appeared unto all, if hearkned to, believed in, and obeyed, 'twill certainly bring to remembrance whatsoever thou hast done ; for it discovers the most secret things of darkness, and reproves for it ; yea, it shall come to judge down every vain thought, idle word, and sinful action whatsoever ; and so I say, shall become your Leader and Teacher, and shall lead you into all Truth and Righteousness, and shall be such a Teacher too, as shall never be removed into a Corner ; when thou liest down, it shall be with thee, when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee ; when thou goest forth, it shall lead thee. *Now if any have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his ; and if we live*
after

after the flesh we shall die; but if through the Spirit, we mortifie the deeds of the Body, we shall live, Rom. 8. 12. and as many as are lead by the Spirit of God, are the Sons of God, ver. 14. Read that Chapter throughout, and indeed the whole Bible, and see whether or no there be not an absolute need and necessity for Men and Women to come to be lead by this Spirit of Truth, which will lead you into all Truth, if truly obeyed; which that you may all come to witness, is the desire of my Soul; and that none of you be found as those Israelites of old, whom Paul Rom. 10. bore record of, had a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge, who went about to establish their own righteousness, and submitted not to that righteousness which is of faith, which speaketh expressly on this wise; say not in thine heart, who shall ascend, that is, to fetch Christ from Heaven, or who shall descend, that is, to bring Christ from the Dead, but the word is nigh

thee, even in thy heart and mouth.
 Now Paul said, that word, is that word of Faith which they did Preach, That if thou shalt confess with the mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him up from the dead, thou shalt be saved; for with the heart man believeth unto Righteousness, and with the tongue confession is made unto Salvation, Rom. 10. 9, 10.

Now, Friends, I would not have any to mistake Paul's words, and only think he meant a meer outward Form or Profession, but first of all consider, and Answer me those *Queries*.

First, Whether it be sufficient, outwardly to believe it, because the Scriptures say so, (which I do really own to be true,) without coming to witness him raised up in thee, to the redeeming of thee out of Sin, and out of Transgression; and whether it was not the very Cause for which he was manifested to destroy the works of Darkness?

Secondly,

Secondly, Whether it was not by actual Disobedience Man came to lose Communion with God? And whether it must not be by actual Obedience Man must come to be restored.

Thirdly, Whether or no thou, or any of thy Hearers do believe it sufficient or safe to continue in that State of *Adam* and *Eve* in the Fall, or whether all must not come back again to that State before the Fall? And whether this be not to be wrought by true Repentance thro' Faith in Christ Jesus.

Fourthly, Whether thou dost own Revelation or Inspiration in those days, since it is plainly said in the Scriptures of Truth, *That no man knows the Father, but the Son, and him to whom the Son reveals him; and since Christ promised in the last days to pour out of his Spirit upon his Sons and Daughters.*

Fifthly, Whether Sin appears to be Sin, from any thing within or without? If within, as I hope none will

will deny, but many will confess. If my Conscience condemn me, God is greater, than whether that which reproveth for Sin in secret, when no mortal eye beholds, be not the same that telleth Man his very thoughts, and discovers to Men and Women the intentions of their hearts, and so sheweth them what is good, and what is evil; and as they come to be Obedient, they shall eschew the evil, and cleave to the good.

Sixthly, Whether any of the true Ministers of Christ took Tythes, or commanded the People to pay Tythes. But did not Christ tell them on the contrary, *freely ye have received, freely give*; and dost not thou who takes Tythes, deny Christ come in the flesh, to be offered up once for all; and had not the Priests under the Law, a Command to take Tythes of their Brethren; and dost not thou take Tythes of them that are none of thy Brethren? and was not the Tythes to be brought into the Store-house,
and

and was not the Widows, Fatherless, and Strangers to have a part, that there might not be a Begger in *Israel*.

Seventhly, Whether that which gives the true Knowledge of God to every particular Person, either Learned, or Unlearned, to be found within, or without.

Eighthly, What is that voice which Christs Sheep hear, saying, *This is the way, walk in it*; when they are turning either to the right hand or to the left; and whether it be an inward or an outward voice.

Ninthly, Whether God being a Spirit, ought not to be worshiped in the Spirit and in the Truth; since it is the Worship Christ set up when manifested in the Flesh above Sixteen Hundred Years agoe; and talking with the Woman of *Samaria*, said, *The time should come, when neither in that Mountain, nor at Jerusalem, Men should Worship the Father, but those that worshiped him, should worship him in Spirit and in Truth.*

Now

Now the earnest desire of my Soul is, that you may all be made partakers of this only and acceptable Worship; and that thou, or any of thy Hearers would return me an Answer according to plain Scripture, which I shall willingly be Censured by; and I advise all to take heed of wresting the Scriptures to their own Destruction: And so this brings me to one *Query* more. Whether the Scriptures, which were given forth by Holy Men of God, as they were moved by the Holy Ghost, can be understood, but as Men come to witness in their measures somewhat of the same Spirit: For the Apostle *Peter* said, *No Prophecie of Scripture is of any private Interpretation*, therefore Interpreted by that Spirit which gave it forth. For I hope none will say, the Prophets or Apostles were ignorant of what they wrote, but were Experiencers of what was written; to the experimental Knowledge of which

which Divine Truths, none can come to witness, but as they come to be deliver'd from Sin, on this side the Grave. I do not say, from being Tempted to Sin, for 'tis no Sin to be Tempted; but that is the Sin to enter into the Temptation. So that which sheweth thee or me Sin to be Sin, shall be our Condemnation if not obeyed. *For this is the Condemnation, that Light is come into the World, but Men love Darknes rather than Light, because their Deeds are Evil.* To the Obedience of which Divine Light in thy Conscience, and likewise in the Consciences of all thy Hearers, is the desire of my Heart you may all come; and so all shall come to know the New Birth, and Regenerated State, and likewise to Experience the daily Cross, and see what that means, which is all at present from him, that in Bowels of true Love, hath written

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ten these Lines ; and doth earnestly
desire the welfare of your Souls ;
who am,

Your well wishing Friend,

The 20th of the 4th
Month, 1675.

John Peters.

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A LETTER to Justice Silly.

Resorrow, The 18th of the 10th
Month, 1680.

Friend,

I Finding thou art not yet satisfied in Persecuting of us, for no other Cause or Reason, but only for the Exercise of our tender Consciences, in the performance of our Duty to God; could not any longer rest satisfied, without giving thee an Account, why we are thus made willing to undergo all those Sufferings, Trials, Hardships and Exercises, that the Lord permits thee, and others, to inflict upon us.

First, Because we are fully satisfied that each particular of us hath a Soul to Save; and that the Salvation thereof depends upon our yielding faithful Obedience to the
Lord,

Lord, according to the Requirings of his blessed Spirit in our Hearts and Consciences; *For that which may be known of God, is manifested in men,* Rom. 1. 19. Read that Chapter (if thou pleasest) at thy leisure, and see how the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven, against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of Men: Therefore we dare not Sin against the Lord, nor prove unfaithful unto him in the least measure that he requires of us, though for our Obedience we were sure to be reduced to nothing but Bread and Water; yea, tho it were to the deprivation of our Lives; yet herein is and hath been our Joy, Comfort, and Satisfaction, in the midst of all that ever we have undergone, (who have been faithful to God) in that we have received an Answer of Peace from the Lord; and this is that durable Treasure which never can be taken from us, by all the Powers of the whole Earth. Though Husband may and
hath

hath been taken from Wife, and Wife from Husband; Parents from Children, and tender Children from their Parents, yet the Lord being with us, we have him that is and hath been a Father to the Fatherless, and a Husband to the Widow; and I am sure he is a large Portion to all that faithfully serve, worship, obey and follow him where-soever he goes; who is that Lamb of God, who was made perfect thorow Sufferings. And if he was made so ready and willing to undergo such cruel Sufferings for us, I doubt not but we shall be enabled with Patience, and made willing more and more to bear whatever we may yet suffer for his Sake; and so it's really for Conscience sake we thus Suffer. Therefore I advise thee (as thou prizest the Eternal well-being of thy poor Immortal Soul) be not found a Persecutor of any that truly Worship the Living God in Spirit and Truth; which is that acceptable Worship

Christ

Christ Jesus set up above Sixteen Hundred Hundred Years (*John* 4 chap.) so ours is no new way, as many barely imagine. Therefore in the deep consideration of that little time we have to live here, not knowing but this day or hour may be the last. Oh! (consider, consider,) what manner of Persons ought all to be in holiness of Life and Conversation; for it's very certain, all our breath is in the hand of the Lord God, who gave it to us in the beginning; and it's in his power suddenly to take it again. And this is that I am fully satisfied of, there is a day and hour hastens to overtake us all; wherein, neither Riches, Honour, Favour, nor Friendship, (though it could be obtained from all the Kings and Princes of the whole Earth) will stand us in any stead, (as to the purchasing of peace with our God) I mean, in that Day when every one shall come to give an Account to God for the deeds done in the Body,

whether

whether they are good, or whether they are evil; and assuredly, according as every ones Deeds are, so shall the Reward be; those that have done well, shall enter into everlasting Joy, and those that have done evil, into everlasting Sorrow and Misery for ever. Therefore take heed to that just witness of God in thy own Heart and Conscience; for it will teach thee, to do to every one as thou wouldest be done by; and it will teach thee, to love the Lord with all thy Heart, with all thy Soul, with all thy Mind, and with all thy Strength, and thy Neighbour as thy self; yea, it's of so good a nature, that it brings those that are faithful to it, to love their greatest Enemies; and to pray for them which hate, persecute and despightfully use them. And so it will lead out of Persecution, or imposing of Sufferings upon any for worshipping of God, in that way the Lord requires of them. But on the contrary, if any amongst us
transgress

transgress any righteous Law, either of God or Man, let it take hold of us. And I hope thou wilt be pleased to acknowledge, that every Minister of the Law ought to be *A Terror to Evil Doers, and a Praise to them that do well.* And so Paul (the Servant of the Lord) said, *If thou dost well, thou shalt have praise of the same; but if thou dost evil, sin lieth at the door.* So the Law ought to take hold of all Evil Doers; as Lyars, Cursers, Swearers, Thieves, Whoremongers, Murderers, Drunkards, and such like; so it's very Serviceable in its place: And herein are we obedient, not only for fear of wrath, but likewise for Conscience sake. But (now) if thou, or any other Person cannot find us guilty of any of those or such like Crimes; but are resolved to bend your Forces, Strength and Wisdom to find occasion against us, as touching the Law of our God, even as the Presidents and Princes of *Darius* (the King) did against *Daniel*, the

Servant

Servant of the Living God; who, notwithstanding the Decree (which was Sealed) *That whosoever did pour forth any Supplication or Prayer to any other God or Man for the space of thirty days, save to the King, should be thrown into the Den of Lyons.* And might not many have supposed Daniel to be a very perverse and foolish Man; who rather than forbear praying to his God (though but for thirty days) would run the hazard of being thrown into the Den of Lyons; and he was faithful to his God, as thou mayst read in Daniel 6. And in Dan. 3. how Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, was brought before Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon; who, for not worshipping the golden Image he had set up, were thrown into the fiery furnace: But see, and consider how the Lord deliver'd them, because they trusted in him. And it's a measure of the same Faith, we are through the Love of God, made Pertakers of: Yea, and we do believe

believe he is able, and will assuredly deliver us out of the hands of all Cruel Men, in his own Time and Season; and until then, I doubt not but we shall be endued with strength and patience to bear whatever thou, or any other may be permitted to inflict upon us; for it's to the Lord our Innocent Cause is known, who is (alone) our Support and Strength; yea, a present help (to all that truly fear him) in all times of need, blessed be his Name for evermore, faith my Soul; thus desiring thou wouldst seriously weigh, and with a solid Mind consider, what I have in the Love of God herein written to thee, is the earnest desire of my Heart, who still remains,

A well-wishing Friend to thee,

John Peters.

For the King's Judges now
in Commission to hold the
Assizes or General Goal-
Delivery at Launceston,
for this our County of
Cornwall.

WE (who are called *Quakers*)
being now Prisoners in this
our County-Goal, for no other
Reason or Crime, but for bearing a
Faithful Testimony to the God of
Heaven and Earth, and for Wor-
shipping Serving and Obeying of
him, according to his Requirings;
before whom all of us, yea, and all
Mankind, must appear, to give an
account for the Deeds done in the
Body, whether they are good or
evil; and accordingly, shall an^d
receive a Reward from the hand of
the Ever-living God; thus earnestly
desiring you would be pleas'd to

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take

take these our present Sufferings into your most serious and weighty Considerations; the particulars of which, are as followeth.

First, I *Nicholas Jose* of the Parish of *Senin* in the County above-said, on the 30th day of the 2d Month called *April*, 1682. was with others called *Quakers*, peaceably met together, waiting in Silence upon the Lord; where *Hugh Jones* (called Justice) and the Priest of the Parish, with divers others, came and required our Appearance at his House the next day. Where, when appeared, he Committed me, though formerly I was a Prisoner for the same Testimony near twelve Years in this Goal aforesaid; and he fined the rest, Five Shillings each.

Secondly, I *John Peters* of the Parish of *St. Mynor*, so called, in the County aforesaid, being Presented at our last Quarter Sessions, and a Warrant forthwith granted to attach me, and bring me to the Sessions

sions to Answer to such Offences as I there stood Presented for : But instead of Proceeding according to the Presentment, had the Oath of Allegiance tendred ; which the Lord knows for Conscience sake I could not take, neither can I Swear on any account whatsoever ; though it were to the loss, not only of Liberty, but my very Life it self ; and so for refusing, was forthwith Committed to this said Goal.

Thirdly, We *Nicholas Emmet, William Roberts, Thomas Pascow,* and *Richard Cleas*, all of the Parish of *Endellion*, and *John Bray* (a Poor Old Man, having nothing to procure himself a Livelihood, but his own Labour) of the Parish of *St. Udy* (so called) and the other four being Fishermen in a poor Haven Town, where they were imploy'd in taking of *Pilchards* ; which being now at this very Season taken off from, is likely to prove much to the loss, not only of themselves, but likewise of many poor Men,

and their Families beside; and the above-said *Thomas Pascow* hath left behind him a Wife and Seven Children; most of them very young, and nothing to Live by but his Labour, all being of the aforesaid County; were on the 30th Day of the 5th Month called *July*, 1682. peaceably met together only to wait upon the Lord, as we find it to be our Duty; where came *Nicholas Bridgman*, *Thomas Morrish*, *John Willcocke* Constables, and *Tho. Hicks* Church-Warden (so called) all of the Parish of *Minver* aforesaid; who immediately dragged us forth of the House, and without shewing us any Warrant so to do, carried us before *Thomas Darell*, and *William Silly* (called Justices) of the said Parish of *St. Minvers*, who by Vertue of a Statute made in the 13th and 14th Years of this present Kings Reign (as our *Mittimus* intimates) and for want of Sureties were we Committed here. As to the Statute aforesaid, made in the

14th

14th of *Car.* 2. we humbly conceive to have relation to the 16th of *Car.* 2. which we suppose to be void, as by the last Clause appears. Thus, hoping the Lord may put it into your Hearts to shew Pity, and extend Mercy towards us, in this our Suffering Condition. And in so doing, we shall have still cause to desire the Lord to shew Mercy and Favour unto you; as is the earnest Request of us, whose Names are hereunto Subscribed.

<i>Nicholas Jose,</i>	}	<i>Thomas Pascow,</i>
<i>John Peters,</i>		<i>Richard Cleas,</i>
<i>Nicholas Emett,</i>		<i>John Bray.</i>
<i>William Roberts,</i>		

John Peter's *Epistle to his Wife.*

Lanceton, the 8th of the 2d
Month, 1683.

My Dear Wife.

IT's the Lord our God that is our Stay and Strength, and without the enjoyment of his Presence, we should soon grow weary; but, blessed be his Name, he is not wanting to attend us from day to day, with that Power by which we are preserved and upheld over all: Yea my Dear, truly can I say to thee, I am made more and more willing to undergo those Exercises; though indeed it's (as thou saidst) our all in this World. But though our Enemies are thus permitted to separate us outwardly, yet wert thou never nearer nor dearer to me, in that pure Love and Life that our God hath raised in us, and
made

made us Partakers of : And it's in the sense of this invisible Love of our God, that I for ever desire we may be kept, that so nothing may ever be able to separate us from the continual enjoyment of his Favour, because in it is Life to our Souls known; and so our God is drawing of us nearer and nearer to himself, and redeeming of us more and more out of the World, and from the Society of them, in which we never witnessed any true Comfort. And I doubt not but we shall have more and more cause to bless the Lord, that he hath thus counted us worthy to bear a faithful Testimony to his Name; and hath not, nor never will leave us in any of those Trials or Exercises, but hath, and still will (as we remain upright hearted before him) indue us with Strength and Patience to Travel on continually, and we shall never faint nor grow weary in waiting upon our God, but our strength shall be daily renewed:

And therefore, my Dear, I beg thee let slip no opportunity that the Lord is pleased to afford thee, in which thou mayest wait upon him; and I know he will hand forth of his living refreshing Mercies more and more; by which thy Soul with mine will be revived and strengthned; and this is the great thing that too too many are wanting in, and careless of. And so it's no wonder to me, if they grow weary and faint in their Journey, and so turn their backs on the Lord, his Way, and Truth. Which that we may never do, is the fervent Prayer of thy tender Husband. And, my Dear, I write not after this manner, as if I did apprehend any weariness in thee; for I am fully satisfied of the contrary; and an Answer from the Lord I have to my earnest Request herein; and often thou art in my view, and Travel upon my Soul I feel for thy preservation with my own; and so the Lord bear thee up in the Arms
of

of his Love, and comfort thee continually, with all our near and dear Relations, who are Exercised with us, and concerned for us. And as to my Health (my dear Wife) I never was better this long time, and hope the Lord will continue it to us, and all ours. This, with my dear Love to thee, my dear Father, Mother, Brothers, and Sisters; desiring the Lord (if it may stand with his will) to give Brother *Gray* ease in his Legs, and order some way for his Recovery: My Love is dearly to them all; and tell them, I desire they may not trouble themselves for me; for I am as well content, and as good Satisfaction I have, and daily do enjoy, as ever I did in all my Life; for it's the Lord that makes it so; and I doubt not but I shall live to enjoy Liberty again; for I know that God that makes me thus content in Bonds, can and will in his own time set me at Liberty; and 'till then, I am resolved to wait in

Patience upon him, desiring for ever to be wholly resigned to his Will, who is known to be a tender Father to all his Children; and lays no more upon any of his, than he gives them strength to bear. So my Dear, let this for ever be cause of Joy to us, that we feel and find the Lord is on our side, and therefore hope shall never fear what Man or Men can do unto us. My heart is full of the overcoming Love of the Lord towards thee; and in it am I always present with thee; in the sense of which, I rest,

Thy Tender and ever-loving
Husband,

John Peters.

A

A Copy of a **LETTER**
sent to Dr. Reynolds.

Friend,

AND all others, within this
 Borough of *Lanceston*, yea,
 both Priest and People, who are
 concerned in endeavouring to op-
 pose and hinder that blessed Work
 of the Lord, which he hath begun,
 and is carrying on by his own ever-
 lasting Arm of Power: I say unto
 you all do I write these few Lines,
 and that in Obedience to the God
 of Heaven and Earth; who in ten-
 der Love to Mankind, hath sent
 his only begotten Son (*Christ Jesus*)
 a Light into the World, that who-
 soever believes on him, should not
 abide in Darkness. I say, in Obe-
 dience to him, do I warn you all, to
 whose hands these may come, that
 are concerned herein, that you in
 the cool of your Spirits weightily
 consider

consider whose work you are a doing, and whose Servants you are, who are found Persecuting, or endeavouring to have any Persecuted for Conscience sake, and by what Spirit you are led to do those things, I do appeal to that just witness of God in your own Consciences; which in the Day of Account none shall be able to hide or flee from, and therefore take heed you are no longer found endeavouring to hinder any in Worshipping and Serving of God, according as he requires of them; for it's a dangerous thing for any to be found fighters against the Lord, and his People; and there are none that in the end of their time will have any cause to rejoyce they have been found in such Work. But on the contrary, (if they repent not) Sorrow and Misery may be their Portion for evermore. And therefore Oh! that you would but consider your latter end, and the uncertainty of your time here, with the certainty

certainty of a Reward hereafter, (and that from the hand of the Living God) according to the Deeds done in the Body, whether they are good or evil. Oh! therefore that you all may come to take heed to that just Principle of God in all your Consciences, which will clearly manifest whatever evil you are guilty of; and not only so, but as it is hearkned to, believed in, and obeyed, it will lead you out of Sin and Evil, and bring you to the enjoyment of the Love and Favour of God, in and through his Son Christ Jesus. Which, that you all may attain unto, is the fervent Desire and Prayer of him, who is a Real well-wishing Friend to you, and all Mankind,

Written in this our County-Goal
in the Castle of Lancaster, this
1st day of the 3d Month, 1683.

John Peters.

*A Letter to his Wife when
under a sore Exercise, by
reason of her Childrens
weakness, and his absence,
being Confin'd a Close Pri-
soner in Lancaster, for a
Testimony of a good Con-
science, in the Year 1683.*

My Dear Wife.

I Received both thy Letters, by
which, I understand of the in-
crease of the Distemper, and of
Jane Petigrew's Death, and my
Dear Little *William's* Illness (with
them) the Lord bear up and streng-
then thee (my tender Wife) and
give thee more and more Patience
to Undergo and Travel thorow all
those Trials and Exercises he doth
see meet to come upon, or may at-
tend us with: For we, with all
ours,

ours, are in his hand; and unto his Providential Disposal I do and have freely resigned you all, desiring his tender Care over you continually; and that no more may be permitted to come upon any of you, than he giveth strength to bear. And blessed be his Name for evermore, he is and hath been known to be nigh unto us, in the midst of all various Tryals that we have met with hitherto; and sure I am he will never leave us, nor forsake us, though he may yet farther try our Faith and Patience. But Oh! my Dear Wife, tender Parents and Relations must give up all that he requires; and we must and ought to be content in all his Dealings with us; and it's my real desire we may for ever be in his hand, as Clay is in the hand of the Potter, that he may fit and fashion us as best pleaseth him; and I know then, all things shall work together for good to us in the End; and none, nor any thing shall be able

able to separate us from the Love of our God, which we have obtain'd, in and through Christ Jesus our Lord, whose Arm and Power was manifested in the gathering and bringing of us nigh, that were once afar off, and separated from the enjoyment of his Presence and Favour, Sin and Iniquity abounding in us; which, was as a Wall of Separation between God, and the Peace of our poor Immortal Souls. And in this miserable and deplorable Estate the Lord beheld us with an Eye of pitty; yea, when no Eye pittied us, he took compassion upon us, and helped us; for he was known to be a God full of Mercy, and willing to pass by Iniquity, Transgression, and Sin: Oh! it was the Day of his tender Visitation that he was pleased to continue towards us; many years did he strive with us; till at last we came to consider the End that all Sin and Evil led unto; even to the Pit of Misery and Sorrow for evermore.

more. The sense of which, so awakened us, that we came, thorough the tender Love of God, even to loath and abhor those Sins and Evils that formerly we were addicted to. And here Sin became exceeding Sinful, and a real and hearty Sorrow was begotten in us, with a full Resolution never to commit those Evils again: And here that Repentance came to be known, that need not to be Repented of; and the tender Mercies of our God, was known in the midst of his Judgments; and he administred to us in that deep distress, and helped us, and indued us with Power from on High, to become his Servants and Children. And now, my Dear Wife, our God that hath done so much for us, hath seen meet farther to try and Exercise us; and I know it's but in Love to us; *for every Son and Daughter whom he Loves, he Chastizeth, even as a Father his only Son in whom he delighteth.* And what

what is it for, but that we may be drawn nearer and nearer to him, and be redeemed more and more, and raised above the Earth, and all Earthly Enjoyments, the chiefest of which are uncertain, and soon may they be taken from us, or we from them. And therefore, that our affections may be continually more on things that are Above (which are certain and durable, and will never fail us) than on things beneath, for the fashion of this World passeth away; and all the Pride, Vanity, and greatest and highest Enjoyments of it, shall end in the dust; and therefore wherein is it to be accounted of? and what little reason have any to set such a high Esteem or Value upon it; as rather than be deprived of the Pleasures, Society and Enjoyments that are to be had in this World, though but for a moment of time, in comparison of Eternity, will run the hazard of the Loss and Ruine of their poor Souls for evermore.

And

And therefore, my Dear Wife, the Consideration of the Eternal Happiness our Little ones entred into, whom our God called for, and hath made us really willing to give up to him, is great cause of Joy to my Soul; a Sense of which, I doubt not, but thou, with the rest of my dear Relations have; which ever bears up our Spirits over all.

And now, my Dear Wife, what farther Tryal we may meet with, I know not; but I desire we may be still and quiet in our minds, and take no thought about it, so as to create trouble; for by taking thought ever so often, we cannot add one Cubit to our Stature, nor one Minute to our own Days, nor the Days of ours. But if it be the will of our God, I humbly desire he may be pleased to spare the rest of our Little Ones, and that they may live to become his Servants and Children; But let it not be *as I will, but as thou pleasest, O my God;*
for

for into thy hand have I committed all mine, with my own Soul and Body; and I do desire that thou mayest watch over them both Day and Night, who art known to be a faithful Watchman, that never slumberst nor sleepest, Oh! watch thou over them, O my God, and be a Husband to my tender Wife, and a Father to my little ones; and administer freely to all their needs, and give them such ease and satisfaction as thou seeest meet for them. Oh! let all that are near and dear unto me, enjoy (if it be thy Will) Like, Content and Satisfaction with me, so thou shalt be honoured for evermore, saith my Soul. Who though at a distance outwardly from thee my Dearest in this world, I can of a truth say, yet am I present with thee in Spirit, hoping and believing our God will put an end to all our Trials and Sufferings in his own time; and 'till then, I doubt not but he will give us strength to bear them all, and Faith and Patience to travel through them

them all. As to my Health, my Dear Wife, I am as well as I have been this several years; and I think, blessed be the Lord, who likewise makes me well satisfied in his present Visitation; into whose hand do I freely commit you all; with my dear Love to thee, my Duty to my Parents, and Love to Brothers, Sisters, and Friends; desiring the Lord to keep and preserve you all; I am, dear Wife, thy Loving and Tender Husband,

John Peters.

Another

*Another Epistle of John
Peters to his Wife.*

*Lanceston, the 29th of the 6th
Month, 1683.*

My Dear Wife.

THE Serious Consideration of the manifold Mercies of our God towards us, and how he hath provided and made way from one time to another, and led us by the hand of his endless Love through many Exercises and Tryals of divers kinds, even from the beginning of our first Acquaintance, to this day; even at present melts my heart, and causes me many a time secretly to rejoyce in him, who hath preserved and upheld us in the midst of all, glory be to his Name for evermore. My dear Love is to thee, and my humble Duty to my dear Father and Mother,

ther, and dear Love to all my Brothers and Sisters, desiring the Blessings of the Lord to be continued towards us all; who am, dear Wife, thy endeared Husband,

John Peters.

Postscript to the Letter.

☞ There were four Friends Presented an Address to the KING, which was kindly received, and *George Whitehead* Read it in presence of the KING, and Duke, and at least one hundred of the Lords and Great Persons, none shewing the least dislike; and then the KING took it, and gave them thanks; and the Duke publicly said to them, *They must do the Quakers that Right; as to say, there was not one of them found to have a hand in the Plot, though they had very narrowly sought into it, but*
could

could find none ; so they parted very Lovingly. What the Event may be, we shall, I hope, for ever leave to the Lord, in whose hands are the hearts of Kings and Princes ; and he is able to turn them as the Rivers of water are turned ; and therefore we have great reason to put our whole trust in him, and faithfully follow him ; who will not suffer one hair of our heads to fall to the ground without his Providence.

*My dear Love to Susan Emitt
and her Daughter, and
Friends.*

JOHN PETERS.

An

*An Epistle to Friends in
Devon. and elsewhere.*

Dear Friends,

BRethren, and Sisters, on whom the Day of the Lord hath dawned, and who have been Visited with the blessed Day-spring from on high, and who have tasted of the Heavenly Gift, and been made partakers (and that in a large measure many of you) of the power of the World to come; unto you is the Salutation of my dear Love; and in a living sense and feeling of that Life which the Lord (in measure) hath been pleased freely to shed abroad in all our hearts, am I at present drawn forth to write you these Lines; earnestly desiring every one of you to be watchful and diligent, and faithfully resigned to the will of our Heavenly Father, who hath called you by his Grace,

F

out

out of the vain Fashions, Customs, Ways, Worships and Traditions of the World, that lies in wickedness; oh! consider, consider, what was it for, that the Lord should thus reach forth a hand of Love unto us, and bring us out of that Egyptian Darknes in which we were (as well as others); was it not that we might Serve and Worship him acceptably the remainder of our days, and walk before him in truth, and in uprightness of heart, doing those things continually that are well-pleasing in his sight; and that our eye might be always to him, and to his Honour and Glory, from whom alone our help comes, and in whom alone our strength is? Oh! my dear Friends, depend upon him, trust steadfastly in him, he is all-sufficient, and (I am sure) he will never leave nor forsake any of us, as we are faithful to him; but will be a present help even in our greatest time of need. Oh! this my Soul hath

hath known, (with many of you) whom the Lord hath made willing to forsake all that is nearest and dearest in this world; yea, my Friends, *Isaac* must be offered up when the Lord requires him, and there must be no reserve in the bottom, and then it will be well with us, and none shall be able to hurt us; and as all thus come to be freely given up in their hearts, they shall find the Lord near to support and bear them up in any Trial or Exercise that he sees meet should come *upon them*; and there is not any thing shall prevail over them, so as to separate them from the enjoyment of his favour, in whose presence is Life, and at whose right hand are Pleasures for evermore; durable Pleasures, lasting Comforts, and Riches that never shall fade away, nor perish with using. Oh! (my dear Friends) shall not our eye be to this (*Tea*) shall not our eye be to this sure recompense of reward

that our God hath in store for all the faithful followers of the Lamb in this day of his warfare, wherein he is working for his own Glories sake, and Honour will he bring to his own Name, and good unto all his faithful Children, who are kept by his Power in Faith and Patience to wait upon him for the carrying on of his own work in and amongst them all; and therefore Oh! that all may be diligent in waiting upon the Lord, and take heed that none slight Meetings, or neglect assembling your selves together to wait upon him; and when assembled, be watchful (still) against that Old Enemy of Man and Womans everlasting Peace; for he is still near to draw aside the mind and heart into the many things, and to keep them so, as that they may be truly staid on the one and only thing needful, (*viz.*) the Lord; and then if he can get the exercise of the heart and mind, he matters not our outward gathering

gathering into silence, though ever so often, or ever so long; and therefore, dear Friends, it's the earnest desire of my Soul, that in all your gatherings and meetings together, you may weightily consider the very end; which is not only to be gathered into Silence outwardly, and so sit down in a careless manner, and think this sufficient; Oh! this will not avail any, and many thousands may come here, and yet never be sensible of the worship of God in Spirit and Truth. But on the contrary, those are the true waiters, worshippers, and gathered of the Lord, who are not only outwardly gathered into Silence, but inwardly likewise: Oh! it's those, whose hearts comes truly to be stayed upon the Lord, and whose minds are exercised in his Law, and it's those who perform their Duty in reality and truth, and not in an outward form only, for we are really satisfied that Bodily Exercise will profit little, but it's an inward

drawing nigh to the Lord that he
accepts of, and those Spiritual wor-
shippers he is well pleased with, and
it is such he will honour, and doth
honour with his pure heavenly pre-
sence; to the great satisfaction of
their hungring, breathing and pant-
ing Souls; and hereby are they
strengthened and enabled to travel
on in the narrow way and path of
Life, and no weariness attends
them, nor faint-heartedness comes
nigh them, but they are made more
and more able and willing to press
forward toward the end of the Race,
for they clearly see there is no sit-
ting down by the way, nor grow-
ing weary in the well-doing; for
all such as do, shall never come to
the obtaining the Crown, which is
at the end of the Race, and is alone
for those that continue faithful to
the end. Oh! such shall not miss
of the Promised Inheritance, nor
fail of possessing that Kingdom,
where the fulness of Joy, Peace, and
endless Comfort is and shall be wit-
nessed

nessed for evermore. So my dear Friends, let this Kingdom, and the durable Riches and Treasure of it be always in our view; and this will be sufficient to out-weigh all our Exercises and Trials; and indeed they are not worthy to be compared with the joy that is to be obtained in this Kingdom; an earnest of which, all ye faithful ones have already; and this I know (right well) you are not willing to part *with it any more*, but rather are made willing to be deprived of all outward Comforts, than to be without the enjoyment of this inward Peace and Joy in the Lord; Oh! blessed and honoured for evermore be his Name, faith my Soul, who hath brought a little despised Remnant to the sense of the daily need they have of him, because without him they can do nothing that may tend to his Honour, nor the Comfort of their Souls; and so find it to be an indispensable Duty upon them, often to meet together to

wait upon the Lord (and that with diligence) that they may receive from his heavenly hand, to the refreshment of their Souls, who cannot live without the daily renewings of his Love, and the showings down more and more of his manifold Mercies; and my dear and tender Friends, when his pure power and presence is enjoyed, what satisfaction do we feel; and in a sense thereof can we not say, *what shall be able to separate us from the love of our God, which we have obtain'd in and through Christ Jesus our Lord.* Oh! my Friends, *shall height, or depth, shall principalities, or powers, shall things present, or things to come, shall bonds, imprisonments, or spoiling of goods, yea (in the strength of our God) can we not say, neither famine, nakedness, peril nor sword, we do believe shall ever be able to separate us from the Love of our God, which we have obtained in and thro' Christ Jesus our Lord; unto whom do I commit the keeping of you all,*
with

with my own Soul, as unto a faithful Creator, and tender Father, who alone oversees all our Needs and Necessities; and is able to Administer out of his fulness to the supply of all. Oh! that we may for ever keep nigh unto him, that he may take a delight in us, and water us more and more; that we may all be as Willows by the water-courses fresh, and green, and lively; and that there may not be any barrenness nor dryness amongst us; but that we all may be faithful Branches, having our abiding in the true Vine (Christ Jesus) and as we all come to sit down here, what shall be able to make us afraid, who have the Banner of our Heavenly Father's Love over us, and whose stay and strength the Lord is; in the sense and feeling of whose Love and Life was I drawn forth to write you these Lines; with my dear Love to you all, I remain, your Friend and Brother, in a patient Suffering, for keeping the Commands of Christ Jesus.

Written in the County-Goal at
Lanceston, the 17th day of
 the 3d Month, 1684.

John Peters.

✍ It's my Desire this may be read in the dread and fear of the Lord, in the several Meeting of Friends in the County of *Devon*. and a Copy of it sent to Friends in *Tauton*, and *Gregory-Stoke Meeting*.

POSTSCRIPT.

BUT now, my Friends, if any grow careless and negligent in waiting upon the Lord ; its no marvel to me, if such want strength to bear a faithful Testimony for the Lord, what Trial, Sufferings, and Exercises do or may attend them ; because it's those that shall, yea, and do renew their strength, who diligently wait upon the Lord ; it's those that run without weariness, and walk without fainting ; and such dare not say, the Lord delays his coming to work deliverance ; but stedfastly believe he is able, and will in his own time work it for them ; and 'till then, they dare not desire it ; but in Patience are made willing to wait upon him continually. And here, *Patience is know to work experience, and experience hope, and this hope maketh not ashamed, but is as an Anchor to the Soul, both sure and stedfast, preserving*

preserving of it in the midst of all
 the tempestuous waves of the ra-
 ging Sea, that many times rage and
 swell so high, as if they would soon
 overwhelm all; but it's our God
 that hath set bounds, and limited
 them; saying, *hitherto shall ye go,
 and no further.* So, my dear Friends,
 keep to the daily Cross, (it being
 the power of God) deny self; let
 it be of no reputation among you,
 and always mind that the Lord
 must be followed fully; for it was
 only such that entred the Promised
 Land in Ages past; and so Friends,
 this is that will be our Crown, and
 the alone cause of true rejoycing to
 every one of us, even in the end of
 our days. I say, as we have the
 Seal upon our Spirits that we have
 followed the Lord fully, Oh then
 we shall not be afraid to die, that
 none of us therefore may sit down
 by the way, or grow weary in the
 well-doing, or faint in their minds,
 nor neglect the assembling them-
 selves together to wait upon the
 Lord,

Lord, nor think their travel too long or hard toward this Heavenly *Canaan*, a Land that is full of Peace and Plenty, is the earnest desire of my Soul, who feels a Travel upon my Spirit (many times) for the sake of Gods Spiritual *Israel*: Oh! that all may be kept near the Lord in this day, wherein Trials and Exercises do attend many of us, and likely to come upon more; oh therefore stand fast in the Faith, and be all still and quiet in your minds, and wait diligently upon the Lord, and take no thought what ye shall eat, nor for what ye shall drink, nor wherewithal ye shall be cloathed, so as to distrust the Lord, who hath never failed to provide for all that have walked faithfully before him from one Generation to another; and he is the same as ever he was in any age or day; and surely, my dear Friends, our God knows we have all need of those things; and though the Lyons may lack and suffer hunger, yet such as
 wait

wait upon the Lord, and fear his Name, shall want nothing that is good; for he is known to be a tender Father over all his Children, and doth daily take care of them, and never will suffer them to want any thing that he sees convenient for them; this is our God, let us fear him for evermore, faith my Soul, for he is worthy, and there is none besides him, and blessed are all this day, who put their whole trust in him; such shall not fail of refreshment from him, when (on the contrary) those that trust in Man, and make Flesh their Arm, and whose hearts are departed from the Lord, shall become even as the Heath in the Defart, and shall not see when good cometh. And therefore that none of us may look at any thing, neither prize nor esteem any thing beyond the Lord, who must be loved above all; in the sense of whose Love I desire we may for ever be kept, while we have a Being here.

John Peters.

*A Copy of a Letter sent
to John and Jonathan
Prideaux Justices.*

*Hollyworth, the 10th of the
Friends, 9th Month, 1695.*

THAT God, even the Great and
Mighty God of Heaven and
Earth, in whose hand is our Life,
Breath, and Being; this is that God
we desire for ever to Serve, Fear,
and Obey, who is not willing that
any of us should perish in our Sins,
nor die in our Iniquities; but hath
sent Christ Jesus to save his People
from their Sins, and to redeem them
from their Iniquities (mark that)
not in them, therefore take heed of
hindring any of his Servants whom
he hath raised this Day to call Peo-
ple to Repentance, and Amendment
of Life, lest you should be found
fighters against God; Oh! it's cause
of deep Lamentation, that ever any
Magistrates professing Christianity,
should

should hinder, or indeavour to hinder any, who have nothing in their eye more than the honour of God, and glory of his worthy Name, with the Peace and wellfare of the Souls of all the Sons and Daughters of Men. And therefore I desire, that none of you who are Magistrates hereaway this day, may be found opposing the Work of the Lord; but rather be as you ought to be, (*viz.*) *A Terror to Evil-doers, and a praise to them that do well*; is the desire of him, who is a real well-wisher to all Mankind,

John Peters.

✿ This was Written and Deliver'd them on their endeavouring to hinder me, and other Friends from having a Meeting that day in the Town of Hollsworth abovesaid, which, though they kept us from having it in the House, yet we had it in the Street, pretty quiet; where were I think, two or three hundred Persons, and many very Sober.

A

*A few Lines to Friends of
the Quarterly-Meeting at
Marston, the 5th Month,
1696.*

*Resorrow, The 4th of the 5th
Month, 1696.*

Dear Friends,

IN the tender Bowels of Brotherly Love do I truly Salute you all, who are found faithful to the Lord in your several Stations and Gifts, and so are made all Serviceable in his hand for the carrying on that Work he is pleas'd to call any of us unto. Oh! that we may be all Co-workers together with him, without whose Divine Assistance we can do nothing that is good; therefore, my dear Friends, be diligent in your Meetings to wait upon the Lord, that Strength and Wisdom from him you may more and more be made Sharers and fresh partakers

kers of, to the mutual Joy and Comfort of your Souls; and as we keep onward in the performance of this great Duty of waiting often upon the Lord, here he is pleased often to comfort our poor Souls by the renewings of Love; and here the eye that he hath opened, is kept open to see the daily need we have of him, and of bringing often our deeds, thoughts and words to the pure Light of Christ Jesus; that so we may clearly see wherein they are wrought; and I am sure this will hurt none of us; and Oh! you my dear Friends, that truly love this Light (satisfied I am) you are not willing to neglect bringing your Deeds unto it; because it discovers plainly whether they are wrought in God, yea, or nay. Oh! the deep sense that lives sometimes upon the hearts of a Remnant, of the great need they have to keep near the Lord, and to be truly watchful against that Old great Adversary and Enemy of the Souls peace, who is not wanting to endeavour

endeavour to rob us of that Peace we have in a good measure obtain'd in the Lord, but would cause Death to come over us again, and so at last, utterly destroy all hope of ever entering the Promised Land; which is the greatest hurt, loss or damage that ever can befall any one, (Man or Woman) amongst us; therefore I earnestly desire we may be all so wise, seriously to consider of it; and see whether we have not only began in the Spirit, but are persevering in the same; for if we continue to the end, we shall be Saved; which that we may all do, is that my Soul desires. Now as to what relates to the Yearly Meeting at *Bristol*, I need not write much about, because our Dear Friend *Tho. Gwin* was there likewise, who, I doubt not but will give you a full Account; only this I must say, we had a very sweet and comfortable Season together; where the Ancient Living and Powerful Presence of our God was truly witnessed and felt,

felt, to the tending the Spirits of many ; and oh ! the tender Counsel and Advice that was given in several particulars, which I shall leave to my dear Companion to give you an Account of ; and with what zeal and fervency of Spirit it was pressed, for Friends to be careful to keep up the Ancient Testimony of Truth in all the particular Branches of it ; that so no decay or withering might overtake us, or any is, this once more tenderly Saluting of you ; being truly desirous to have been Personally present, could I have seen my way clear ; however, in my Mind and Spirit I desire to be with you ; who am your Friend and Brother,

John Peters.

To

*To the Late MAYOR, and Chief
Magistrates of the Town of Tru-
row, and Inhabitants thereof.*

FOR the Clearing of our selves,
and the Testimony the Lord
hath given us to bear for his Holy
Name and Truths sake, am I con-
cerned to write these Lines; sincere-
ly declaring it was in the great Love
of God my mouth was opened a-
mongst many of your Inhabitants
in your publick Streets; and my
chief end and aim therein, was to
call Sinners to Repentance, and A-
mendment of Life; that so that
Great and Universal Love of God
tendred to us all in Christ Je-
sus, none might miss of through
their willful disobedience and neg-
lect, of taking hold of the alone
means God hath ordained Salvation
by; for we do believe there is no
other Name given under Heaven,
by which Salvation, and true peace
with the Great and Just God can be
obtained,

obtained, but in and through Faith in Christ Jesus, and Obedience unto him, who died for the Sins of the whole World; and it's said, *his Name shall be called Jesus, for he shall save his People from their Sins*; (mark) not in them, and blessed be his Name, we know for this end he was made manifest, that he might destroy the Works of the Devil; and all manner of Sin, is it not of the Devil, and is not Christ come to redeem from all Iniquity, and wash the heart, and purge the Conscience from dead works, and to purifie unto himself a peculiar People zealous of good works; not for Evil, or making Lyes their refuge, thereby to punish the Innocent, whom God hath had great Care of from Age to Age; and hath said, 'He that offends the least of these my little ones, that believeth in me, it were better a Millstone were hang- ed about his Neck, and he cast into the midst of the Sea. Therefore, in the Love of the Great God of Heaven and Earth, in whose hands our Life, Breath, and Being is; and before whose Judgment Seat of Divine Justice we must all stand, and give an account for the Deeds done in the Body. I desire you seriously Consider of it, the Midnight will come (that's certain) are you prepared, or are you, or any of you but in the foolish Virgins State, who had Lamps, but no Oil; have you not had a profession of God in words, calling him Father, but doing that which highly displeaseth him; praying to the Lord, *that his will may be done in Earth,*

as it's done in Heaven; and yet doing your own wills, and not suffering the will of God to be done; whose will is no less than the Sanctification of the Soul. And not that we should remain Day after Day, and Year after Year, confessing our selves to be miserable Sinners, and never amend; full of wounds, bruises, and putrefactions, from the crown of the head, to the sole of the foot no soundness; Oh! Consider whether there must not be a forsaking, as well as confessing; and if so full of wounds and bruises, whether there is not greater need to come to that Physician that alone is able to Cure and Heal all the Wounds of the poor Soul (that comes to feel them) but I am afraid the Consciences of too too many are so hardened, that the daily accustoming themselves to do Evil, that they feel very little of those wounds or bruises, but have even slain the witness of God, so as to take no notice of the secret Checks and Reproofs thereof. But tho' Men and Women may get to this height of wickedness and hard-heartedness, there will a Day of Reckoning come, and the Book of Conscience will be opened, wherein there is a just Record of all the Evil Deeds, Words and Actions of Men, and we for all must be called to an Account; therefore consider of it, I beg of you, and that for the sake of your poor Souls, one of which is of more value than the whole World. For as Christ said, *What will it profit a Man if he should gain the whole*

whole World, and lose his own Soul? or what shall he give in exchange for his Soul? Oh! Silver nor Gold will not purchase Peace to it, nor Riches, nor Honour, (no) though many think they may Lord it over the Heritage of God, yet then they shall see they must give an Account for all; and as I believe the Lord hath put some of you in Authority; so I would have you Consider it is your Duty to Rule for God; for you ought not to bear the Sword of Justice in vain; but stand and be a Terror to Evil-doers, and a Praise to them that do well; and so bring Honour to the Great God, and Comfort to his People. But oh! instead of this, have not I, with many more, just Cause to say, true Judgment is fallen in your Streets, Equity cannot enter, neither can the Cry of the Oppressed be heard, nor the Voice of the Innocent taken notice of; but when the Name of the Great God of Heaven hath been made use of, it hath begotten too many into Laughter, making so great a noise, that words relating to Truth and Soberness could not be taken notice of; I do appeal to the just witness of God in your own Hearts, that were at your last Law-Court, where you received such a Bill of Notorious Falshoods, against us an Innocent and Peaceable People, and you know did not appear in an Hostile manner, as falsely declared against, unto the certain Knowledge not only of those (that I suppose) Swore to the Bill, but likewise to several Magistrates
and

and others of the Town. Notwithstanding all this, we can commit the Innocency of our Case to the Lord; in whose Love I was made willing to lay these things before you that are as Judges and Justices in the Town; and likewise to Inform others of the Cause of our so appearing amongst you, which was really in true Love; desiring nothing more, than that you may come to see what you are doing, and who you are Contending with, and what you are Labouring to suppress, whether Vice or Virtue; Consider of it, and the Lord open your Understandings, and put it into your Hearts, if it be his Will, no longer to Suppress the Innocent, but open the Prison Door, and set at Liberty her, that was, I do believe, concerned in the Love of God to Visit you the Inhabitants of *Truro*. This from your Truly Loving and Well-wishing-Friend,

Penryn, the 9th of the 8th
Month, 1702.

JOHN PETERS.



FINIS.